

Evercore Partners Inc.  
Form 424B3  
January 14, 2011  
Table of Contents

Filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3)  
Registration No. 333-167393

Prospectus

**1,391,466 Shares**

## **EVERCORE PARTNERS INC.**

### **Class A Common Stock**

Evercore Partners Inc. may issue from time to time up to 1,391,466 shares of Class A common stock to holders of the 1,391,466 partnership units of Evercore LP that were issued to Ralph L. Schlosstein and Jane Hartley, as the trustee of the Ralph L. Schlosstein 1998 Long-Term Trust, on May 21, 2009, prior to Mr. Schlosstein's election as a director and appointment as our president and Chief Executive Officer. We are a public company organized under the laws of Delaware and the sole general partner of Evercore LP, a Delaware limited partnership.

We are registering the issuance of our Class A common stock to permit holders of Evercore LP partnership units who exchange their partnership units to sell without restriction in the open market or otherwise any of our shares of Class A common stock that they receive upon exchange. However, the registration of our Class A common stock does not necessarily mean that any holders will exchange their Evercore LP partnership units, which exchanges are subject to the transfer restrictions set forth in the partnership agreement of Evercore LP. We will not receive any cash proceeds from the issuance of any of our shares of Class A common stock upon an exchange of Evercore LP partnership units, but we will acquire the Evercore LP partnership units exchanged for shares of our Class A common stock that we issue to an exchanging holder.

Our Class A common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol **EVR**. The last reported sale price of the Class A common stock on December 17, 2010 was \$33.03 per share.

***Investing in our Class A common stock involves risks. See the risks described under Risk Factors in Item 1A of our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and Item 1A of each subsequently filed Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q or Annual Report on Form 10-K (which documents are incorporated by reference herein), as well as the other information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or in any prospectus supplement hereto before making a decision to invest in our Class A common stock. See Incorporation by Reference and Where You Can Find More Information in this prospectus.***

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

The date of this prospectus is January 12, 2011

**Table of Contents**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<u>Evercore Partners</u>	1
<u>Disclosure Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	2
<u>Use of proceeds</u>	3
<u>Exchange of Evercore LP Partnership Units</u>	3
<u>Certain United States Federal Income Tax Considerations</u>	4
<u>Description of Capital Stock</u>	9
<u>Comparison of Ownership of Evercore LP Partnership Units and Class A Common Stock</u>	12
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	19
<u>Legal Matters</u>	19
<u>Experts</u>	19
<u>Incorporation by Reference</u>	19
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	20

We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information or to make any representations about anything not contained in this prospectus or the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus. You must not rely on any unauthorized information or representations. We are offering to sell, and seeking offers to buy, only our shares of Class A common stock covered by this prospectus, and only under circumstances and in jurisdictions where it is lawful to do so. The information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus is current only as of its date, regardless of the time and delivery of this prospectus or of any sale of the shares.

You should read carefully the entire prospectus, as well as the documents incorporated by reference in the prospectus, before making an investment decision.

In this prospectus, references to Evercore , the Company , we , us and our refer to Evercore Partners Inc., a Delaware corporation, and its consolidated subsidiaries. Unless the context otherwise requires, references to (1) Evercore Partners Inc. refer solely to Evercore Partners Inc., and not to any of its consolidated subsidiaries and (2) Evercore LP refer solely to Evercore LP, a Delaware limited partnership, and not to any of its consolidated subsidiaries.

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, using a shelf registration process. Under the shelf registration process, we may offer from time to time up to an aggregate of 1,391,466 shares of Class A common stock.

**Table of Contents**

**EVERCORE PARTNERS**

Evercore is one of the leading independent investment banking advisory firms in the world based on the dollar volume of announced worldwide merger and acquisition ( M&A ) transactions on which we have advised since 2000. When we use the term independent investment banking advisory firm, we mean an investment banking firm that directly or through its affiliates does not engage in commercial banking or proprietary trading activities. We operate around the world from our offices in New York, San Francisco, Boston, Washington D.C., Los Angeles, Houston, London, Mexico City and Monterrey through two business segments: Investment Banking; and Investment Management.

Our Investment Banking segment includes our Advisory business through which we provide advice to clients on significant mergers, acquisitions, divestitures and other strategic corporate transactions, with a particular focus on advising prominent multinational corporations and substantial private equity firms on large, complex transactions. We also provide restructuring advice to companies in financial transition, as well as to creditors, shareholders and potential acquirers. In addition, we provide our clients with capital markets advice, underwrite securities offerings and raise funds for financial sponsors. Our Investment Banking segment also includes our Institutional Equities business through which we have recently begun to offer equity research and agency-only equity securities trading for institutional investors.

Our Investment Management segment includes our Institutional Asset Management business through which we manage financial assets for sophisticated institutional investors and provide independent fiduciary services to corporate employee benefit plans, our Wealth Management business through which we provide wealth management services for high net-worth individuals, and our Private Equity business through which we manage private equity funds.

Evercore Partners Inc. was incorporated in Delaware on July 21, 2005. Our principal executive offices are located at 55 East 52nd Street, New York, NY 10055, and our telephone number is (212) 857-3100.

**Table of Contents**

**DISCLOSURE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This prospectus contains or incorporates by reference forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, which reflect our current views with respect to, among other things, our operations and financial performance. In some cases, you can identify these forward-looking statements by the use of words such as outlook, believes, expects, potential, continues, may, will, should, seeks, approximately, predicts, intends, plans, estimates, version of these words or other comparable words. Such forward-looking statements are subject to various risks and uncertainties.

Accordingly, there are or will be important factors that could cause actual outcomes or results to differ materially from those indicated in these statements. All statements other than statements of historical fact are forward-looking statements and are based on various underlying assumptions and expectations and are subject to known and unknown risks, uncertainties and assumptions, and may include projections of our future financial performance based on our growth strategies and anticipated trends in Evercore's business. We believe these factors include, but are not limited to, those described under Risk Factors in Item 1A of our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and Item 1A of each subsequently filed Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q or Annual Report on Form 10-K (which documents are incorporated by reference herein), as well as the other information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or in any prospectus supplement hereto. These factors should not be construed as exhaustive and should be read in conjunction with the other cautionary statements that are included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or in any prospectus supplement hereto. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or review any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise.

We operate in a very competitive and rapidly changing environment. New risks and uncertainties emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for our management to predict all risks and uncertainties, nor can management assess the impact of all factors on our business or the extent to which any factor, or combination of factors, may cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statements.

**Table of Contents**

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

We will not receive any cash proceeds from the issuance of any shares of our Class A common stock pursuant to this prospectus, but we will acquire the Evercore LP partnership units exchanged for the shares of our Class A common stock that we may issue to an exchanging holder.

**EXCHANGE OF EVERCORE LP PARTNERSHIP UNITS**

Subject to the transfer restrictions set forth in the partnership agreement of Evercore LP holders of partnership units in Evercore LP (other than Evercore Partners Inc.) may exchange those partnership units for shares of Class A common stock on a one-for-one basis, subject to customary conversion rate adjustments for stock splits, stock dividends and reclassifications. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no holder of Evercore LP partnership units will be entitled to exchange such units for shares of Class A common stock if such exchange would be prohibited under applicable federal or state securities laws or regulations.

Subject to the more detailed requirements set forth in the certificate of incorporation of Evercore Partners Inc., in order to exercise its exchange rights, an Evercore LP partnership unit holder must provide written notice to Evercore Partners Inc. that such holder desires to exchange a stated number of partnership units into an equal number of shares of Class A common stock. This written notice must be accompanied by instruments of transfer to Evercore Partners Inc., in form satisfactory to Evercore Partners Inc. and its transfer agent, duly executed by the partnership unit holder or its duly authorized attorney and transfer tax stamps or funds therefor if such shares will be issued in a name other than that of the holder of the partnership units exchanged. Delivery of the written notice and instruments of transfer must be made during normal business hours to the principal executive offices of Evercore Partners Inc. or its transfer agent.

**Table of Contents**

**CERTAIN UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS**

The following summary describes certain United States federal income tax consequences of the exchange of Evercore LP partnership units for shares of Evercore Partners Inc. Class A common stock and the tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of such shares as of the date hereof. Except where noted, this summary deals only with partnership units or shares of Class A common stock held as capital assets held by United States Holders.

As used herein, the term "United States Holder" means a holder of a partnership unit or share of Class A common stock that is for United States federal income tax purposes:

an individual citizen or resident of the United States;

a corporation (or other entity treated as a corporation for United States federal income tax purposes) created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia;

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

a trust if it (1) is subject to the primary supervision of a court within the United States and one or more United States persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (2) has a valid election in effect under applicable United States Treasury regulations to be treated as a United States person.

A Non-U.S. Holder is an owner (other than a partnership) that is not a United States Holder.

This summary does not represent a detailed description of the United States federal income tax consequences applicable to you if you are subject to special treatment under the United States federal income tax laws, including if you are:

a dealer in securities or currencies;

a financial institution;

a regulated investment company;

a real estate investment trust;

an insurance company;

a tax-exempt organization;

a person holding our partnership units as part of a hedging, integrated or conversion transaction, a constructive sale or a straddle;

## Edgar Filing: Evercore Partners Inc. - Form 424B3

a trader in securities that has elected the mark-to-market method of accounting for your securities;

a person liable for alternative minimum tax;

a person who owns 10% or more of our voting stock;

a partnership or other pass-through entity for United States federal income tax purposes;

a person that received its partnership units as compensation; or

a person whose functional currency is not the United States dollar.

---

## **Table of Contents**

The discussion below is based upon the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), and regulations, rulings and judicial decisions thereunder as of the date hereof, and such authorities may be replaced, revoked or modified so as to result in United States federal income tax consequences different from those discussed below, possibly with retroactive effect.

If a partnership holds the partnership units or shares of Class A common stock, the tax treatment of a partner will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. If you are a partner of a partnership holding the partnership units or shares of Class A common stock, you should consult your tax advisors.

This summary does not contain a detailed description of all the United States federal income tax consequences to you in light of your particular circumstances and does not address the effects of any state, local or non-United States tax laws. **If you are considering the exchange of your partnership units for shares of Class A common stock, or a disposition of any such shares of Class A common stock received in the exchange, you should consult your own tax advisors concerning the United States federal income tax consequences to you in light of your particular situation as well as any consequences arising under the laws of any other taxing jurisdiction.**

### **Taxation of the Exchange**

#### ***United States Holders***

For United States federal income tax purposes, the exchange of partnership units for Class A common stock will be a taxable event. You will recognize gain or loss on such exchange to the extent that the fair market value of the shares of Class A common stock (plus cash, if any, and the relief of your share of any liabilities of Evercore LP) exceeds your adjusted basis in the partnership units immediately before the exchange. Any gain will be taxed as capital gain except to the extent that the amount received attributable to your share of unrealized receivables of Evercore LP exceeds your basis attributable to those assets, which will be taxed as ordinary income. Unrealized receivables include, to the extent not previously included in Evercore LP's income, any rights to payment for services rendered or to be rendered. Unrealized receivables also include amounts that would be subject to recapture as ordinary income (for example, recapture of depreciation with respect to property) if Evercore LP had sold its assets at or above their fair market value at the time of the exchange. Any loss resulting from such exchange will be taxed as capital loss. Capital gain of non-corporate tax payers individuals derived with respect to capital assets held for more than one year are generally taxed at reduced rates. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations.

Your basis in the partnership units received in exchange for a contribution of property had an initial tax basis equal to the basis in the property you contributed to Evercore LP. Such initial basis is generally increased by your share of Evercore LP's taxable income and increases in your share of Evercore LP's liabilities. Your initial basis generally is decreased, but not below zero, by your share of Evercore LP's distributions, decreases in your share of Evercore LP's liabilities, your share of Evercore LP's losses and nondeductible expenditures.

#### ***Non-U.S. Holders***

Because Evercore LP is engaged in a U.S. trade or business, a portion of any gain recognized by a Non-U.S. Holder on the sale or exchange of its partnership units could be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as effectively connected with such trade or business and hence such Non-U.S. Holder could be subject to U.S. federal income tax on the exchange as follows:

A non-corporate Non-U.S. Holder will be subject to tax on the net gain effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business from such sale under regular graduated United States federal income tax rates.

A Non-U.S. Holder that is a foreign corporation will be subject to tax on its net gain that is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business in the same manner as if it were a United States person as defined under the Code and, in addition, may be subject to the branch profits tax equal to 30% of its effectively connected earnings and profits or at such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty.



## **Table of Contents**

### **Taxation of Ownership of Class A Common Stock**

#### ***United States Holders***

##### *Dividends*

The gross amount of distributions on the Class A common stock will be taxable as dividends to the extent paid out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined under United States federal income tax principles. Such income will be includable in your gross income as ordinary income on the day actually or constructively received by you. Subject to certain limitations, dividends received by corporate United States Holders may be eligible for the dividends received deduction. In addition, subject to certain limitations, dividends received prior to January 1, 2011 by non-corporate United States Holders will be eligible for reduced rates of taxation.

To the extent that the amount of any distribution exceeds our current and accumulated earnings and profits for a taxable year, as determined under United States federal income tax principles, the distribution will first be treated as a tax-free return of capital, causing a reduction in the adjusted basis of the shares of Class A common stock (thereby increasing the amount of gain, or decreasing the amount of loss, to be recognized by you on a subsequent disposition of the Class A common stock), and the balance in excess of adjusted basis will be taxed as capital gain recognized on a sale or exchange.

##### *Taxation of Capital Gains*

For United States federal income tax purposes, you will recognize taxable gain or loss on any sale or exchange of a share of Class A common stock in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized for the Class A common stock and your tax basis in such shares. Such gain or loss will generally be capital gain or loss. Capital gains of individuals derived with respect to capital assets held for more than one year are generally taxed at reduced rates. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations.

#### ***Non-U.S. Holders***

##### *Dividends*

Dividends paid to a Non-U.S. Holder of our Class A common stock generally will be subject to withholding of United States federal income tax at a 30% rate or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty. However, dividends that are effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business by the Non-U.S. Holder within the United States (and, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, are attributable to a United States permanent establishment) are not subject to the withholding tax, provided certain certification and disclosure requirements are satisfied. Instead, such dividends are subject to United States federal income tax on a net income basis in the same manner as if the Non-U.S. Holder were a United States person as defined under the Code. Any such effectively connected dividends received by a foreign corporation may be subject to an additional branch profits tax at a 30% rate or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty.

A Non-U.S. Holder of our Class A common stock who wishes to claim the benefit of an applicable treaty rate and avoid backup withholding, as discussed below, for dividends will be required (a) to complete Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN (or other applicable form) and certify under penalty of perjury that such holder is not a United States person as defined under the Code and is eligible for treaty benefits or (b) if our Class A common stock is held through certain foreign intermediaries, to satisfy the relevant certification requirements of applicable United States Treasury regulations. Special certification and other requirements apply to certain Non-U.S. Holders that are pass-through entities rather than corporations or individuals.

## **Table of Contents**

A Non-U.S. Holder of our Class A common stock eligible for a reduced rate of United States withholding tax pursuant to an income tax treaty may obtain a refund of any excess amounts withheld by filing an appropriate claim for refund with the Internal Revenue Service.

### *Gain on Disposition of Class A Common Stock*

Any gain realized on the disposition of our Class A common stock generally will not be subject to United States federal income tax unless:

the gain is effectively connected with a trade or business of the Non-U.S. Holder in the United States (and, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, is attributable to a United States permanent establishment of the Non-U.S. Holder);

the Non-U.S. Holder is an individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of that disposition, and certain other conditions are met; or

we are or have been a United States real property holding corporation for United States federal income tax purposes.

A non-corporate Non-U.S. Holder described in the first bullet point immediately above will be subject to tax on the net gain derived from the sale under regular graduated United States federal income tax rates. An individual Non-U.S. Holder described in the second bullet point immediately above will be subject to a flat 30% tax on the gain derived from the sale, which may be offset by United States source capital losses, even though the individual is not considered a resident of the United States. If a Non-U.S. Holder that is a foreign corporation falls under the first bullet point immediately above, it will be subject to tax on its net gain in the same manner as if it were a United States person as defined under the Code and, in addition, may be subject to the branch profits tax equal to 30% of its effectively connected earnings and profits or at such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty.

We believe we are not and do not anticipate becoming a United States real property holding corporation for United States federal income tax purposes.

## **Information reporting and backup withholding**

### *United States Holders*

In general, information reporting will apply to dividends in respect of our shares of Class A common stock and the proceeds from the sale, exchange or redemption of our partnership units and shares of Class A common stock that are paid to you within the United States (and in certain cases, outside the United States), unless you are an exempt recipient. A backup withholding tax may apply to such payments if you fail to provide a taxpayer identification number or certification of other exempt status or fail to report in full dividend and interest income.

Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules will be allowed as a refund or a credit against your United States federal income tax liability provided the required information is furnished to the Internal Revenue Service.

### *Non-U.S. Holders*

We must report annually to the Internal Revenue Service and to each Non-U.S. Holder the amount of dividends paid to such holder and the tax withheld with respect to such dividends, regardless of whether withholding was required. Copies of the information returns reporting such dividends and withholding may also be made available to the tax authorities in the country in which the Non-U.S. Holder resides under the provisions of an applicable income tax treaty.

**Table of Contents**

A Non-U.S. Holder will be subject to backup withholding for dividends paid to such holder unless such holder certifies under penalty of perjury that it is a Non-U.S. Holder (and the payor does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that such holder is a United States person as defined under the Code), or such holder otherwise establishes an exemption.

Information reporting and, depending on the circumstances, backup withholding will apply to the proceeds of a sale of our partnership units and Class A common stock within the United States or conducted through certain United States-related financial intermediaries, unless the beneficial owner certifies under penalty of perjury that it is a Non-U.S. Holder (and the payor does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that the beneficial owner is a United States person as defined under the Code), or such owner otherwise establishes an exemption.

Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules may be allowed as a refund or a credit against a Non-U.S. Holder's United States federal income tax liability provided the required information is furnished to the Internal Revenue Service.

**Additional Withholding Requirements**

Under recently enacted legislation, the relevant withholding agent may be required to withhold 30% of any dividends and the proceeds of a sale of our common stock paid after December 31, 2012 to (i) a foreign financial institution unless such foreign financial institution agrees to verify, report and disclose its U.S. accountholders and meets certain other specified requirements or (ii) a non-financial foreign entity that is the beneficial owner of the payment unless such entity certifies that it does not have any substantial United States owners or provides the name, address and taxpayer identification number of each substantial United States owner and such entity meets certain other specified requirements.

**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK**

The following description of our capital stock is a summary and is qualified in its entirety by reference to our certificate of incorporation and by-laws, copies of which have been filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. See [Incorporation by Reference](#) and [Where You Can Find More Information](#).

Our authorized capital stock consists of 1,000,000,000 shares of Class A common stock, par value \$.01 per share, 1,000,000 shares of Class B common stock, par value \$.01 per share and 100,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$.01 per share. Unless our board of directors determines otherwise, we will issue all shares of our capital stock in uncertificated form.

**Common Stock**

*Class A common stock*

Holders of our Class A common stock are entitled to one vote for each share held of record on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders.

Holders of our Class A common stock are entitled to receive dividends when and if declared by our board of directors out of funds legally available therefor, subject to any statutory or contractual restrictions on the payment of dividends and to any restrictions on the payment of dividends imposed by the terms of any outstanding preferred stock.

Upon our dissolution or liquidation or the sale of all or substantially all of our assets, after payment in full of all amounts required to be paid to creditors and to the holders of preferred stock having liquidation preferences, if any, the holders of our Class A common stock will be entitled to receive pro rata our remaining assets available for distribution.

Holders of our Class A common stock do not have preemptive, subscription, redemption or conversion rights.

Subject to the transfer restrictions set forth in the Evercore LP partnership agreement, holders of partnership units in Evercore LP (other than Evercore Partners Inc.) may exchange these partnership units for shares of Class A common stock on a one-for-one basis, subject to customary conversion rate adjustments for stock splits, stock dividends and reclassifications.

*Class B common stock*

Each holder of Class B common Stock shall be entitled, without regard to the number of shares of Class B common stock held by such holder, to one vote for each partnership unit in Evercore LP held by such holder.

Holders of our Class A common stock and Class B common stock vote together as a single class on all matters presented to our stockholders for their vote or approval, except as otherwise required by applicable law.

Holders of our Class B common stock do not have any right to receive dividends or to receive a distribution upon a liquidation or winding up of Evercore Partners Inc.

**Preferred Stock**

Our certificate of incorporation authorizes our board of directors to establish one or more series of preferred stock (including convertible preferred stock). Unless required by law or by any stock exchange, the authorized shares of preferred stock will be available for issuance without further action by you. Our board of directors is able to determine, with respect to any series of preferred stock, the terms and rights of that series, including:

the designation of the series;

**Table of Contents**

the number of shares of the series, which our board of directors may, except where otherwise provided in the preferred stock designation, increase or decrease, but not below the number of shares then outstanding;

whether dividends, if any, will be cumulative or non-cumulative and the dividend rate of the series;

the dates at which dividends, if any, will be payable;

the redemption rights and price or prices, if any, for shares of the series;

the terms and amounts of any sinking fund provided for the purchase or redemption of shares of the series;

the amounts payable on shares of the series in the event of any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of the affairs of our company;

whether the shares of the series will be convertible into shares of any other class or series, or any other security, of our company or any other entity, and, if so, the specification of the other class or series or other security, the conversion price or prices or rate or rates, any rate adjustments, the date or dates as of which the shares will be convertible and all other terms and conditions upon which the conversion may be made;

restrictions on the issuance of shares of the same series or of any other class or series; and

the voting rights, if any, of the holders of the series.

We could issue a series of preferred stock that could, depending on the terms of the series, impede or discourage an acquisition attempt or other transaction that some, or a majority, of you might believe to be in your best interests or in which you might receive a premium for your Class A common stock over the market price of the Class A common stock.

**Authorized but Unissued Capital Stock**

Delaware law does not require stockholder approval for any issuance of authorized shares. However, the listing requirements of the New York Stock Exchange, which would apply so long as the Class A common stock remains listed on the New York Stock Exchange, require stockholder approval of certain issuances equal to or exceeding 20% of the then outstanding voting power or then outstanding number of shares of Class A common stock (assuming, in this latter case, the exchange of outstanding Evercore LP partnership units not held by Evercore Partners Inc.). These additional shares may be used for a variety of corporate purposes, including future public offerings, to raise additional capital or to facilitate acquisitions.

One of the effects of the existence of unissued and unreserved common stock or preferred stock may be to enable our board of directors to issue shares to persons friendly to current management, which issuance could render more difficult or discourage an attempt to obtain control of our company by means of a merger, tender offer, proxy contest or otherwise, and thereby protect the continuity of our management and possibly deprive the stockholders of opportunities to sell their shares at prices higher than prevailing market prices.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Anti-Takeover Effects of Provisions of Delaware Law**

We are a Delaware corporation subject to Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law. Section 203 provides that, subject to certain exceptions specified in the law, a Delaware corporation shall not engage in certain business combinations with any interested stockholder for a three-year period after the date of the transaction in which the person became an interested stockholder unless:

prior to such time, our board of directors approved either the business combination or the transaction that 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 our voting stock outstanding at the time the transaction commenced, excluding certain shares; or

at or subsequent to that time, the business combination is approved by our board of directors and authorized by the affirmative vote of holders of at least 66 2/3% of the outstanding voting stock that is not owned by the interested stockholder.

Generally, a business combination includes a merger, asset or stock sale or other transaction resulting in a financial benefit to the interested stockholder. Subject to certain exceptions, an interested stockholder is a person who, together with that person's affiliates and associates, owns, or within the previous three years did own, 15% or more of our voting stock.

Under certain circumstances, Section 203 makes it more difficult for a person who would be an interested stockholder to effect various business combinations with a corporation for a three-year period. The provisions of Section 203 may encourage companies interested in acquiring our company to negotiate in advance with our board of directors because the stockholder approval requirement would be avoided if our board of directors approves either the business combination or the transaction that results in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder. These provisions also may make it more difficult to accomplish transactions that stockholders may otherwise deem to be in their best interests.

### **Transfer Agent and Registrar**

The transfer agent and registrar for our Class A common stock is BNY Mellon.

### **Listing**

Our Class A common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol EVR.

**Table of Contents**

**COMPARISON OF OWNERSHIP OF EVERCORE LP PARTNERSHIP UNITS AND CLASS A**

**COMMON STOCK**

The information below highlights a number of the significant differences between the rights and privileges associated with ownership of the Evercore LP partnership units and Evercore Partners Inc. Class A common stock. This discussion is intended to assist holders of the partnership units in understanding how their investment will change if their partnership units are exchanged for shares of Class A common stock. The following information is summary in nature and is not intended to describe all the differences between the partnership units and the Class A common stock.

**Evercore Partners Inc.**

**Evercore LP**

**Form of Organization, Purpose and Assets**

Evercore Partners Inc. (the Corporation) is a Delaware corporation governed by the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware (the DGCL). The Corporation was founded for the purpose of conducting any business that may be lawfully conducted by a corporation. The Corporation's sole material asset is an equity interest in Evercore LP. As the sole general partner of Evercore LP, the Corporation operates and controls all of the business and affairs of Evercore LP and, through Evercore LP and its operating subsidiaries, conducts our business.

Evercore LP is Delaware limited partnership governed by the Delaware Revised Uniform Limited Partnership Act (the RULPA). Evercore LP was formed for the object and purpose of, and the nature of the business to be conducted by Evercore LP is, engaging in any lawful act or activity for which limited partnerships may be formed under the RULPA.

**Authorized Share Capital**

The total number of shares of all classes of stock the Corporation is authorized to issue is 1,101,000,000 consisting of (i) 100,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$.01 per share, (ii) 1,000,000,000 shares of Class A common stock, par value \$.01 per share, and (iii) 1,000,000 shares of Class B common stock, par value \$.01 per share. The number of authorized shares of any class may be increased or decreased (but not below the number of shares of a particular class then outstanding) by an affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the voting power entitled to vote thereon.

The general partner may issue additional partnership units or create new classes of units.

Partnership units will be subdivided or combined concurrently with, and in the same manner as, the Class A common stock.

**Voting Rights**

Holders of our Class A common stock are entitled to one vote for each share held of record on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders. Each Class B stockholder is entitled, without regard to the number of shares of Class B Common Stock held by such holder, to one vote for each partnership unit in Evercore LP held by such holder. However, Class A stockholders and Class B stockholders are not entitled to vote on any amendment to the certificate of incorporation that relates solely to the terms of one or more series of outstanding preferred stock if the holders of such preferred stock are entitled to vote thereon.

The conduct, control or management of Evercore LP is vested exclusively in the Corporation, as general partner.

No limited partner, in its capacity as such, has the right to participate in or have any control over the business or management of Evercore LP, except that (i) no general partner may be admitted to Evercore LP as an additional or substitute general partner without the consent of limited partners holding at least 50% of the partnership units, (ii) there will be a continuance of Evercore LP in the event of the incapacity or removal of the general partner or the occurrence of a disabling event (as defined in the partnership agreement of Evercore LP) with

---

**Table of Contents**

**Evercore Partners Inc.**

Holders of our Class A common stock and Class B common stock vote together as a single class on all matters presented to our stockholders for their vote or approval, except as otherwise required by applicable law.

Under the Corporation's by-laws, and the DGCL, a majority of the voting power of the common stock issued and outstanding and entitled to vote at a meeting constitutes a quorum of the stockholders at such meeting. When a quorum is present at any such meeting, the vote of the majority of the votes cast shall decide a matter brought before such meeting.

**Evercore LP**

respect to the general partner upon consent of more than two-thirds of the limited partners, and (iii) the general partner may not, subject to certain specified exceptions, including in connection with the issuance of new classes of partnership units or other types of interests in Evercore LP, amend the partnership agreement of Evercore LP if such amendment would have a material adverse effect on the rights or preferences of any class of partnership units in relation to any other class of partnership units without the approval of those holding a majority of the partnership units of the affected class.

**Dividend Rights**

Holders of our Class A common stock are entitled to receive dividends when and if declared by our board of directors out of funds legally available therefor, subject to any statutory or contractual restrictions on the payment of dividends and to any restrictions on the payment of dividends imposed by the terms of any outstanding preferred stock.

The general partner, in its discretion, may authorize distributions by Evercore LP to the general partner and limited partners. Such distributions will be made pro rata in accordance with the partners partnership units.

In addition, partners are entitled to tax distributions in accordance with their partnership units upon the determination that the taxable income of Evercore LP for a fiscal year will give rise to taxable income for such partners.

**Liquidity**

With the exception of Class A common stock held by our affiliates, the Class A common stock is freely transferable.

Class A common stock is not convertible or exchangeable into any other class of security issued by us or Evercore LP.

The Class A common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

Except as otherwise specified in Evercore LP's partnership agreement and as described below, no limited partner may transfer any of its partnership units without the prior written consent of the general partner. The general partner may grant or withhold such consent at its sole discretion. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, under certain circumstances a limited partner may be allowed to transfer certain rights of a portion of its partnership units to certain charities, and to certain trusts for estate planning purposes.

Furthermore, a limited partner may, after the expiration of certain periods of time or the occurrence of certain events set forth in Evercore LP's partnership agreement, exchange all or a portion of its partnership units for Class A common stock on a one-for-one basis; provided that if the limited partner is not employed by Evercore, longer periods of restriction may apply.

With respect to the partnership units issued to Ralph L. Schlosstein and Jane Hartley, as the trustee of the Ralph L. Schlosstein 1998



Edgar Filing: Evercore Partners Inc. - Form 424B3

Long-Term Trust (the Trust ), on May 21, 2009, such units will not be exchangeable for a five year period beginning May 21, 2009 (other than in the event of earlier (i) termination of Mr. Schlosstein s

**Table of Contents**

**Evercore Partners Inc.**

**Evercore LP**

employment due to death, disability, termination without Cause or resignation for Good Reason (each as defined in the employment agreement dated May 21, 2009 between Mr. Schlosstein, the Corporation and Evercore LP ) or (ii) Change in Control (as defined in the Corporation's 2006 Stock Incentive Plan)), and cannot be pledged as collateral to secure a loan or other financing or be hedged prior to the period when such partnership units become exchangeable.

In the event Mr. Schlosstein resigns without Good Reason or is terminated for Cause, we will have the option, but not the obligation, to reacquire all of the partnership units issued to Mr. Schlosstein and the Trust at their then fair value by exercising a call right within 90 days following Mr. Schlosstein's termination. If such termination occurs within the first 5 years, the determination of fair market value will include adjustments for lack of marketability in the manner taken into account for purposes of the initial accounting valuation. If such termination occurs after 5 years, the determination of fair market value will not include adjustment for lack of marketability.

**Management**

The Corporation's board of directors manages its business and affairs. Accordingly, except for their vote in the election of directors and their vote in specified major transactions, the Class A common stockholders, as such, do not directly have any control over our business and affairs.

The Corporation, as general partner, manages the business and affairs of Evercore LP. No limited partner, in its capacity as such, has any right to participate in the conduct, control or management of Evercore LP except in the limited circumstances described above under Voting Rights.

**Fiduciary Duties of Directors/General Partner**

Under Delaware law, the directors of the Corporation owe the Corporation and its stockholders fiduciary duties, including the duties of care and loyalty, and are required to act in good faith in discharging their duties.

Under the Corporation's certificate of incorporation, to the extent permissible under Delaware law, no member of the board of directors is personally liable to the Corporation or its stockholders for monetary damages for any breach of fiduciary duty as a director.

Pursuant to Evercore LP's partnership agreement, the general partner and limited partners expressly agree, to the maximum extent permitted by law, that the general partner and any of its affiliates shall not owe any fiduciary duties to Evercore LP and its general and limited partners. Furthermore, to the extent any general or limited partners of Evercore LP owes any fiduciary duties to any other general or limited partner or Evercore LP, no such partner acting under Evercore LP's partnership agreement will be liable to Evercore LP or to any other general or limited partner for its good faith reliance on the provisions of the partnership agreement of Evercore LP.

---

**Table of Contents**

**Evercore Partners Inc.**

**Evercore LP**

**Indemnification**

To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Corporation will indemnify any current or former director or officer in any suit against all loss and liability suffered and expenses (including attorney's fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement reasonably incurred in connection with such a suit.

Evercore LP will indemnify any person or entity who has been or will be made party to an action (whether brought on behalf of Evercore LP or otherwise) arising out of service to the Evercore LP against all loss and liability suffered and expenses (including attorney's fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement incurred in connection with such an action. However, no person shall be indemnified if such person's action constitutes fraud, bad faith or willful misconduct.

The Corporation, as general partner, is liable for all debts and obligations that cannot be satisfied out of Evercore LP's assets.

**Number of Directors; Election of Directors; Filling of Vacancies; Removal of Directors/General Partner**

The number of directors shall be fixed from time to time by resolution adopted by affirmative vote of a majority of the board of directors of the Corporation.

The appointment of an additional or substitute general partner requires the written approval of those partners (including the general partner) owning more than 50% of the partnership units (including those partnership units held by the general partner).

The directors are elected by a vote of a plurality of those holders of Class A common stock and Class B common stock and others entitled to vote that are present (in person or by proxy) at a meeting in which such votes are cast. Additionally, if a series of preferred stock is entitled to vote separately to elect its own director(s), then the holders of such a series will have the right to such election. Any director elected to the board of directors by preferred stockholders will serve in addition to the number of directors required by a resolution of the board of directors.

No general partner may withdraw or be removed from Evercore LP unless an additional general partner has previously been admitted.

Any vacancy on the board of directors shall be filled only by a vote of the majority of the board of directors then in office, although less than a quorum, or by a sole remaining director.

A director must vacate office when he or she resigns, or is not re-elected. Any director, or the entire board of directors, may be removed, with or without cause, by a vote of the majority of the stockholders entitled to vote for such director(s).

**Director/General Partner Nominations by Stockholders/Limited Partners**

The Corporation's by-laws require that Class A common stockholders must give advance notice of a director nomination prior to a meeting in which such a nomination will be voted on. Specifically, the nomination

As noted above, the appointment of an additional or substitute general partner requires the written approval of those partners (including the general partner) owning more than 50% of the

## Edgar Filing: Evercore Partners Inc. - Form 424B3

must generally be delivered to the Secretary of the Corporation at the Corporation's executive offices between 90 and 120 days before the first anniversary of the preceding year's annual meeting. Nominations must contain all that is required to be disclosed in a proxy solicitation by Regulation 14A under the Securities partnership units (including those partnership units held by the general partner).

**Table of Contents**

**Evercore Partners Inc.**

**Evercore LP**

Exchange Act, the nominee's written consent to be named in the proxy and to serve as a director and certain other information required by the Corporation's by-laws. Finally, a Class A common stockholder's nomination may be disregarded if the Class A common stockholder (or its qualified representative) does not appear at the meeting in which the voting takes place.

**Stockholder/Limited Partner Proposals**

Class A common stockholders and other stockholders may make proposals to be voted on at a meeting in which such voting takes place. Notice of such proposals must be made in the same timely manner as is required for director nominations and must contain the information set forth in the Corporation's by-laws. A stockholder's proposal may be disregarded if the stockholder (or its qualified representative) is not present at the meeting in which the voting takes place.

No limited partner, in its capacity as such, has any right to participate in the conduct, control or management of Evercore LP except in the limited circumstances described above under Voting Rights.

**Special Meetings Called by Stockholders/Limited Partners**

The Corporation's certificate of incorporation does not permit Class A common stockholders to call special meetings of the stockholders.

Under the Evercore LP partnership agreement limited partners are not permitted to call special meetings of Evercore LP.

**Action Through Writing**

Any action required or permitted to be taken by holders of Class A common stock must be effected at a duly called annual or special meeting of holders and may not be effected by any consent in writing by such holders.

Any action required or permitted to be taken by the partners under Evercore LP's partnership agreement shall be taken if all partners whose consent is required consent thereto in writing.

**Amendments to Governing Instruments**

Pursuant to the DGCL, the certificate of incorporation of the Corporation may only be amended by the board of directors with the approval of a majority of the outstanding stock entitled to vote and a majority of the outstanding stock of any class of stock affected by the amendment.

The general partner may, at its sole discretion, amend Evercore LP's partnership agreement. However, subject to certain specified exceptions, including in connection with the issuance of new classes of partnership units or other types of interests in Evercore LP, no such amendment may have a material adverse affect on the rights or preferences of any class of partnership units in relation to any other class of partnership units without the written consent of those holding a majority of the partnership units of the affected class.

The affirmative vote of the holders of at least 80% of the voting power of all the then outstanding shares of stock of the Corporation entitled to vote generally in the election of directors, voting together as a single class, will be required for the stockholders to make, amend, alter, change, add to or repeal any provision of the Corporation's by-laws.

**Asset Sales, Mergers and Consolidations**

Pursuant to the DGCL, the board of directors may sell, lease or exchange all or substantially all the Corporation's assets when authorized by a majority of the stockholders entitled to vote on a resolution granting such authorization.

The Corporation, as general partner, has the authority and sole discretion to determine if, when and on what terms any or all of Evercore LP's assets are sold.



**Table of Contents**

**Evercore Partners Inc.**

**Evercore LP**

The Corporation may merge or consolidate with another entity upon the board of directors recommending such action and subsequent approval of a majority of the stockholders entitled to vote on mergers and consolidations. In general, the information submitted to the stockholders by the board of directors must include (i) the terms and conditions of the merger or consolidation; (ii) the mode of carrying the transaction into effect; (iii) in the case of a merger, any changes that are to be made to the certificate of incorporation of the surviving company (or if no such changes, a statement that the certificate of incorporation of the surviving company shall be the applicable certificate of incorporation); (iv) in the case of a consolidation, that the certificate of incorporation of the resulting corporation shall be as is set forth in an attachment to the consolidation agreement; (v) the manner, if any, of converting the shares of the constituent corporations into an interest in the surviving or newly created entity; and (vi) such other details or provisions as are deemed desirable.

**Rights on Liquidation**

In the event of any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the affairs of the Corporation, after payment or provision for payment of the debts and other liabilities of the Corporation and of the preferential and other amounts, if any, to which the holders of preferred stock are entitled, the Class A common stockholders will be entitled to receive the remaining assets of the Corporation available for distribution. Such assets will be paid on a *pro rata* basis in proportion to the amount of outstanding shares owned by each Class A common stockholder.

Upon dissolution, the general partner, or its agent, shall take full account of the assets and liabilities of Evercore LP and liquidate the assets of Evercore LP. The proceeds will be applied first against Evercore LP's debts and liabilities and expenses of liquidation, then to establishing a reserve fund to be used for payment of any unforeseen liabilities or obligations of Evercore LP. The balance, if any, will be distributed to the partners *pro rata* based on overall ownership of partnership units.

**Access to Books and Records**

Members of the general public have a right to inspect our public documents, available at the Securities and Exchange Commission's offices and through its electronic filing system (EDGAR).

Under the RULPA, limited partners are permitted access to certain financial and tax information and other records of Evercore LP.

Under the DGCL, stockholders have the right to access a list of stockholders and others entitled to vote at a meeting. This list must be produced by us at least 10 days in advance of any meeting in which voting is to take place. The list must contain the names and addresses of all stockholders as well as the number of shares each holds. Stockholders may only access the list for purposes of conducting stockholder business.

**Table of Contents**

**Evercore Partners Inc.**

**Evercore LP**

**Dissolution**

The Corporation has a perpetual term.

Evercore LP was formed on May 12, 2006 and will continue until dissolved upon the occurrence of specified events including: (i) subject to certain exceptions, at any time there are no limited partners of Evercore LP, (ii) the entry of a decree of judicial dissolution of Evercore LP under Section 17-802 of the RULPA, and (iii) subject to certain exceptions, upon removal or incapacity of the general partner or the occurrence of certain disabling events (as defined in the partnership agreement of Evercore LP) with respect to the general partner.



**Table of Contents**

**PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

This prospectus relates to the issuance from time to time of up to 1,391,466 shares of our Class A common stock to holders of up to an equal number of Evercore LP partnership units. The shares of Class A common stock registered under this prospectus will only be issued to the extent that holders of partnership units exchange such partnership units. We will not receive any cash proceeds from the issuance of any of our shares of Class A common stock upon an exchange of Evercore LP partnership units, but we will acquire the Evercore LP partnership units exchanged for shares of our Class A common stock that we issue to an exchanging holder. The expenses associated with the distribution of the Class A common stock registered under this prospectus will be borne by us.

**LEGAL MATTERS**

The validity of the Class A common stock will be passed upon for us by Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, New York, New York. An investment vehicle composed of certain partners of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, members of their families, related parties and others own an interest representing less than 1% of the capital commitments of investment funds managed by Evercore. Richard I. Beattie, a partner of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, is a member of our board of directors.

**EXPERTS**

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

**INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE**

The SEC's rules allow us to incorporate by reference information into this prospectus. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document. Any information referred to in this way is considered part of this prospectus from the date we file that document. Any reports filed by us with the SEC after the date of this prospectus and before the date that the offerings of the shares of Class A common stock by means of this prospectus are terminated will automatically update and, where applicable, supersede any information contained in this prospectus or incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

We incorporate by reference into this prospectus the following documents or information filed with the SEC:

1. Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, filed on February 22, 2010 (File No. 001-32975);
2. Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2010, filed May 5, 2010 (File No. 001-32975);
3. Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2010, filed August 6, 2010 (File No. 001-32975);
4. Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2010 filed November 5, 2010 (File No. 001-32975);
5. Current Report on Form 8-K, dated February 11, 2010, filed on February 16, 2010 (File No. 001-32975);
6. Current Report on Form 8-K, dated February 19, 2010, filed on February 23, 2010 (File No. 001-32975);

## Edgar Filing: Evercore Partners Inc. - Form 424B3

7. Current Report on Form 8-K, dated March 4, 2010, filed on March 5, 2010 (except Item 7.01 and the corresponding exhibits which were furnished to, but not filed with, the SEC) (File No. 001 32975);
8. Current Report on Form 8-K, dated June 8, 2010, filed on June 9, 2010 (File No. 001-32975);
9. Current Report on Form 8-K dated September 14, 2010, filed on September 14, 2010 (File No. 001-32975);
10. Current Report on Form 8-K dated September 15, 2010, filed on September 16, 2010 (File No. 001-32975);
11. Current Report on Form 8-K dated December 29, 2010, filed on January 4, 2011 (File No. 001-32975);
12. Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A, dated April 26, 2010, filed April 26, 2010 (File No. 001 32975);

---

**Table of Contents**

13. The description of shares of Class A common stock contained in the Registration Statement on Form 8-A, dated August 7, 2006 (File No. 001 32975), of Evercore Partners Inc., filed with the SEC under Section 12(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and

14. All documents filed by Evercore Partners Inc. under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 after the date of this prospectus and before the termination of the offerings to which this prospectus relates.

We will provide without charge to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom this prospectus is delivered, upon his or her written or oral request, a copy of any or all documents referred to above which have been or may be incorporated by reference into this prospectus, excluding exhibits to those documents unless they are specifically incorporated by reference into those documents. You can request those documents from Evercore Partners Inc., at 55 East 52nd Street, New York, New York 10055. You also may contact us at (212) 857-3100 or visit our website at <http://www.evercore.com> for copies of those documents. Our website and the information contained on our website are not a part of this prospectus, and you should not rely on any such information in making your decision whether to purchase the shares offered hereby.

**WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

We have filed a registration statement on Form S-3 with the SEC relating to the shares of Class A common stock covered by this prospectus. This prospectus, filed as part of the registration statement, does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement and its exhibits and schedules, portions of which have been omitted as permitted by the rules and regulations of the SEC. For further information about us and our Class A common stock, we refer you to the registration statement and to its exhibits. Statements in this prospectus about the contents of any contract, agreement or other document are not necessarily complete and, in each instance, we refer you to the copy of such contract, agreement or document filed as an exhibit to the registration statement, with each such statement being qualified in all respects by reference to the document to which it refers. Anyone may inspect the registration statement and its exhibits and schedules without charge at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain copies of all or any part of these materials from the SEC upon the payment of certain fees prescribed by the SEC.

You may obtain further information about the operation of the SEC's Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. You may also inspect these reports and other information without charge at a website maintained by the SEC. The address of this site is <http://www.sec.gov>.

We are subject to the information requirements of the Exchange Act, and we are required to file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may inspect and copy these reports, proxy statements and other information at the public reference facilities maintained by the SEC at the address noted above. You also are able to obtain copies of this material from the Public Reference Room of the SEC as described above, or inspect them without charge at the SEC's website. Our filings with the SEC are also available to the public through the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005. We make available free of charge on the Investor Relations section of our website (<http://ir.evercore.com>) our Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and all amendments to those reports as soon as reasonably practicable after such material is electronically filed or furnished with the SEC pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act. We intend to make available to our stockholders annual reports containing consolidated financial statements audited by an independent registered public accounting firm.