

ODYSSEY MARINE EXPLORATION INC
Form S-3
October 02, 2018
Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on October 2, 2018

Registration No.: 333-

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20549

FORM S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

Odyssey Marine Exploration, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Nevada
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or
organization)

84-1018684
(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

5215 West Laurel Street

Tampa, Florida 33607

(813) 876-1776

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

Mark D. Gordon, Chief Executive Officer

5215 West Laurel Street

Tampa, Florida 33607

(813) 876-1776

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies to:

David M. Doney, Esq.

Akerman LLP

401 East Jackson Street, Suite 1700

Tampa, Florida 33602

Telephone: (813) 209-5070

Facsimile: (813) 218-5404

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of this registration statement.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective

registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, a smaller reporting company, or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer, smaller reporting company and emerging growth company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act (check one):

Large accelerated filer
Non-accelerated filer

Accelerated filer
Smaller reporting company
Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 7(a)(2)(B) of Securities Act.

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered | Proposed Maximum Amount to be Registered(1) | Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit(2) | Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price | Proposed Maximum Amount of Registration Fee(3) |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| Common Stock, par value \$0.0001 per share (4) | | | | |
| Preferred Stock, par value \$0.0001 per share (4) | | | | |
| Warrants (4) | | | | |
| Total (5) | \$100,000,000 | | \$100,000,000 | \$12,120 |

(1) Pursuant to Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act of 1933, which permits the registration fee to be calculated on the basis of the maximum offering price of all securities listed, the table does not specify information as to the amount

of any particular security to be registered.

- (2) The proposed maximum aggregate offering price per class of security will be determined from time to time by the registrant in connection with the issuance by the registrant of the securities registered hereunder and is not specified as to each class of security pursuant to General Instruction II.D. of Form S-3 under the Securities Act.
- (3) Calculated pursuant to Rule 457(o) of the Securities Act. Pursuant to Rule 457(p) under the Securities Act, the registrant is offsetting \$2,778 against the amount of the registration fee payable with respect to this registration statement. The offsetting amount was originally paid by the registrant in connection with the registration statement filed by the registrant on May 10, 2012 (File No. 333-181310). Accordingly, a registration fee of \$9,342 is being paid at this time.
- (4) Subject to Note 5 below, the registrant is registering hereunder an indeterminate number of shares of common stock, preferred stock, and warrants to purchase common stock or preferred stock of the registrant as may be sold from time to time by the registrant. Pursuant to Rule 457(i), this includes such indeterminate number of shares of common stock and preferred stock as are issuable upon conversion of, or exchange for, preferred stock or upon exercise of any warrant securities or pursuant to the anti-dilution provisions of any such securities.
- (5) In no event will the aggregate offering price of all securities issued from time to time pursuant to this registration statement exceed \$100,000,000 separately or as units with other securities registered hereunder.

The registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until this registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

Table of Contents

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

Subject to Completion Dated October 2, 2018

PROSPECTUS

\$100,000,000

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Warrants

From time to time, we may sell common stock, preferred stock, and/or warrants with a maximum aggregate offering price of \$100,000,000.

We will describe in one or more prospectus supplements the securities we are offering and selling, as well as the specific terms of the securities. You should read this prospectus and any prospectus supplements carefully before you invest. This prospectus may not be used to offer or sell any securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

The securities may be sold directly by us to investors, through agents designated from time to time or to or through underwriters or dealers. For additional information on the methods of sale, you should refer to the section entitled Plan of Distribution. If any underwriters are involved in the sale of any securities with respect to which this prospectus is being delivered, the names of such underwriters and any applicable commissions or discounts will be set forth in a prospectus supplement. The net proceeds we expect to receive from such sale will also be set forth in a prospectus supplement.

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. See Risk Factors beginning on page 2 of this prospectus. We may also include specific risk factors in an applicable prospectus supplement under the heading Risk Factors. You should review that section of the prospectus supplement for a discussion of matters that investors in our securities should consider.

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Our common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol OMEX. On October 1, 2018, the closing price of our common stock on the NASDAQ Capital Market was \$8.08 per share. Pursuant to General Instruction I.B.6 of Form S-3, in no event will we sell our common stock in a public primary offering with a value exceeding more than one-third of our public float in any 12-month period so long as our public float remains below \$75.0 million. We have not offered any securities pursuant to General Instruction I.B.6 of Form S-3 during the 12 calendar months prior to and including the date of this prospectus.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved 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 _____, 2018.

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

| | Page |
|--|-------------|
| <u>About This Prospectus</u> | 1 |
| <u>About Odyssey</u> | 1 |
| <u>Risk Factors</u> | 2 |
| <u>Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u> | 2 |
| <u>Use of Proceeds</u> | 2 |
| <u>Description of Capital Stock</u> | 3 |
| <u>Description of Warrants</u> | 4 |
| <u>Plan of Distribution</u> | 5 |
| <u>Legal Matters</u> | 7 |
| <u>Experts</u> | 7 |
| <u>Where You Can Find Additional Information</u> | 7 |
| <u>Documents Incorporated by Reference</u> | 9 |

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information that is different. We are not making an offer of securities in any state or jurisdiction where such an offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of such document.

Table of Contents

About this Prospectus

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, using a shelf registration process. Under the shelf registration process, we may sell common stock, preferred stock, and/or warrants in one or more offerings up to a total dollar amount of \$100,000,000. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain more specific information. We may also add, update, or change in the prospectus supplement any of the information contained in this prospectus. This prospectus, together with applicable prospectus supplements, includes all material information relating to this offering. You should carefully read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with the additional information described below under **Where You Can Find Additional Information**.

In this prospectus, we use the terms **Odyssey**, **our company**, **we**, **us**, and **our** to refer to Odyssey Marine Exploration, Inc. and its subsidiaries.

About Odyssey

Odyssey Marine Exploration, Inc., or Odyssey, is a world leader in deep-ocean exploration. The discovery, development and extraction of deep-ocean minerals is our core focus. Our innovative techniques are also applied to shipwreck cargo recovery and other marine survey and exploration charter services. We have numerous projects in various stages of development around the world from both our own portfolio as well as through third-party contracts.

We have extensive experience discovering shipwreck sites in the deep ocean and conducting archaeological excavations with remotely operated vehicles (ROVs). We have worked on some of the most historically important shipwreck projects to be discovered including the SS *Republic*, HMS *Victory* (1744), the SS *Central America* and *La Marquis de Tourny*. Odyssey also has considerable experience conducting cargo recovery operations from 20th century shipwrecks in the deep ocean. Between 2012 and 2013, we recovered over 110 tons of silver cargo, representing 99% of the insured cargo, from the SS *Gairsoppa*, which was located nearly three miles deep. This was one of the largest and heaviest recoveries from a shipwreck in history. Odyssey is the exclusive provider of shipwreck search and recovery services for Magellan Offshore Services (Magellan). Odyssey also performs marine services for other customers, including private clients and governments.

In 2010, we began to leverage our core business expertise and technology for deep-ocean mineral exploration. Our expeditions conducted for Neptune Minerals, Inc. and Chatham Rock Phosphate, Ltd. resulted in the assessment of significant mineral deposits. We are also developing and exploring our own deep-ocean mineral projects. Through our majority stake in Oceanica Resources S. de R.L., a Panamanian company, we control Exploraciones Oceanicas, S. de R.L. de C.V., which we call ExO, a Mexican company that has exclusive mining permits for an area known as the Don Diego deposit that contains large amounts of mineralized phosphate material. Our team performed all of the off-shore exploration to find and validate the mineralized phosphate deposit and is managing the environmental studies and environmental permit application process with ExO. The phosphate deposit is one of the largest to be identified and is expected to be important to the regional and international fertilizer markets and is strategically important to Mexico and North America.

Our corporate offices are located at 5215 West Laurel Street, Tampa, Florida 33607. Our telephone number is (813) 876-1776. Our Internet website address is www.odysseymarine.com, and all of our filings with the SEC are available free of charge on our website. Any information that is included on or linked to our Internet site is not a part of this prospectus.

Table of Contents

Risk Factors

The prospectus supplement applicable to each type or series of securities we offer will contain a discussion of the risks applicable to an investment in Odyssey and to the particular types of securities that we are offering under that prospectus supplement. Prior to making a decision about investing in our securities, you should carefully consider the specific factors discussed under the caption **Risk Factors** in the applicable prospectus supplement, together with all of the other information contained or incorporated by reference in the prospectus supplement or appearing or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. You should also consider the risks, uncertainties, and assumptions discussed under the caption **Risk Factors** included in our latest Annual Report on Form 10-K and any subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus, and which may be amended, supplemented, or superseded from time to time by other reports we file with the SEC in the future.

Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

This prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement includes and incorporates by reference forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, or Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or Exchange Act, with respect to our financial condition, results of operations, plans, objectives, future performance, and business, which are usually identified by the use of words such as will, may, anticipates, believes, estimates, expects, projects, plans, predicts, continues, or similar expressions. We intend for these forward-looking statements to be covered by the safe harbor provisions for forward-looking statements contained in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, and are including this statement for purposes of complying with these safe harbor provisions.

These forward-looking statements reflect our current views and expectations about our plans, strategies, and prospects, which are based on the information currently available and on current assumptions.

We cannot give any guarantee that these plans, intentions, or expectations will be achieved. Investors are cautioned that all forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties, and actual results may differ materially from those discussed in the forward-looking statements as a result of various factors, including those factors described under the heading **Risk Factors** and any risk factors contained in any prospectus supplement and in the documents incorporated by reference herein or therein.

You should read this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement and the documents that we incorporate by reference herein and therein completely and with the understanding that our actual future results may be materially different from what we expect. We may not update these forward-looking statements, even though our situation may change in the future. We qualify all of our forward-looking statements by these cautionary statements.

Use of Proceeds

We will retain broad discretion over the use of the net proceeds from the sale of securities offered by this prospectus. Except as described in any prospectus supplement, we currently intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of securities offered by this prospectus for working capital, capital expenditures, and other general corporate purposes. However, we currently have no commitments or agreements for any uses. Pending such uses, we intend to invest the net proceeds in investment-grade, interest-bearing securities.

Table of Contents

Description of Capital Stock

The following description of our capital stock, together with the additional information included in any applicable prospectus supplement, summarizes the material terms and provisions of these types of securities but is not complete. You should read our certificate of incorporation, as amended, our bylaws, as amended, and the certificate of designation relating to any particular series of preferred stock before you purchase any of our capital stock or securities convertible into shares of our capital stock because those documents, and not this description, set forth the terms of our capital stock.

We will describe in a prospectus supplement the specific terms of any capital stock we may offer pursuant to this prospectus. If indicated in a prospectus supplement, the terms of such capital stock may differ from the terms described below.

Authorized Capital Stock

Our authorized capitalization consists of 75,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.0001 per share, and 24,984,166 shares of preferred stock, par value \$.0001 per share.

The authorized shares of common stock and preferred stock are available for issuance without further action by our stockholders, unless such action is required by applicable law or the rules of any stock exchange or automated quotation system on which our securities may be listed or traded. If the approval of our stockholders is not so required, our board of directors may determine not to seek stockholder approval.

Common Stock

As of September 30, 2018, we had 8,466,909 shares of common stock outstanding. The holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote per share on all matters to be voted upon by our shareholders. Subject to preferences that may be applicable to any outstanding shares of our preferred stock, the holders of common stock are entitled to receive ratably such dividends, if any, as may be declared from time to time by our board of directors out of funds legally available for that purpose. In the event of our liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, the holders of our common stock are entitled to share ratably in all assets remaining after payment of liabilities, subject to preferences applicable to shares of our preferred stock, if any, then outstanding. The common stock has no preemptive or conversion rights or other subscription rights. There are no redemption or sinking-fund provisions available to the common stock. All outstanding shares of our common stock are, and the shares of common stock offered by this prospectus will be, fully paid and nonassessable.

Preferred Stock

We have authority under our articles of incorporation to issue up to 24,984,166 shares of our preferred stock, par value \$.0001 per share. As of September 30, 2018, there were no shares of our preferred stock issued and outstanding.

Our board of directors, without further stockholder approval (except as may be required by applicable law or the rules of any stock exchange or automated quotation system on which our securities may be listed or traded) has the authority to issue shares of preferred stock in one or more series and to fix the rights, preferences, privileges, and restrictions thereof, including:

dividend rights;

dividend rates;

conversion rights;

voting rights;

Table of Contents

terms of redemption;

redemption prices;

liquidation preferences; and

the number of shares constituting any series or the designation of such series.

If our board of directors elects to exercise this authority, the rights and privileges of holders of shares of our common stock could be made subject to the rights and privileges of such series of preferred stock.

Although our board of directors has no intention at the present time of doing so, it could issue a series of preferred stock that could, depending on the terms of such series, impede the completion of a merger, tender offer, or other takeover attempt.

Nevada Laws

The Nevada Business Corporation Law contains a provision governing Acquisition of Controlling Interest. This law provides generally that any person or entity that acquires 20% or more of the outstanding voting shares of a publicly held Nevada corporation in the secondary public or private market may be denied voting rights with respect to the acquired shares, unless a majority of the disinterested stockholders of the corporation elects to restore such voting rights in whole or in part. The control share acquisition act provides that a person or entity acquires control shares whenever it acquires shares that, but for the operation of the control share acquisition act, would bring its voting power within any of the following three ranges:

20% to 33%;

33% to 50%; and

more than 50%.

Market Information

Our common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol OMEX.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is Computershare Trust Company, Inc., Golden, Colorado.

Description of Warrants

General

We may issue warrants for the purchase of common stock or preferred stock. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as warrant agent. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the warrants. The warrant agent will not have any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders or beneficial owners of the warrants. This summary of certain provisions of the warrants is not complete. For the complete terms of a particular series of warrants, you should refer to the prospectus supplement and the warrant agreement for that series of warrants.

Stock Warrants

The prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of warrants to purchase our common stock or preferred stock will describe the terms of the warrants, including the following:

the title of the warrants;

Table of Contents

the offering price for the warrants, if any;

the aggregate number of the warrants;

the number of warrants outstanding as of the date specified in the applicable prospectus supplement;

the designation and terms of the common stock or preferred stock that may be purchased upon exercise of the warrants;

the number of shares of common stock or preferred stock that may be purchased upon exercise of a warrant and the exercise price for the warrants;

the dates on which the right to exercise the warrants shall commence and expire;

if applicable, the minimum or maximum amount of the warrants that may be exercised at any one time;

if applicable, any provisions for changes or adjustments to the exercise price of the warrants;

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

if applicable, a discussion of material United States federal income tax considerations;

the anti-dilution provisions of the warrants, if any;

the redemption or call provisions, if any, applicable to the warrants;

any provisions with respect to holder's right to require us to repurchase the warrants upon a change in control; and

any additional terms of the warrants, including terms, procedures, and limitations relating to the exchange, exercise, and settlement of the warrants.

Holders of equity warrants will not be entitled:

to vote, consent, or receive dividends;

receive notice as stockholders with respect to any meeting of stockholders for the election of our directors or any other matter; or

exercise any rights as stockholders of the Company.

As set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, the exercise price and the number of shares of common stock or preferred stock purchasable upon exercise of a warrant will be subject to adjustment in certain events, including the issuance of a stock dividend to any holders of common stock, a stock split, reverse stock split, combination, subdivision or reclassification of common stock, and such other events, if any, specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Plan of Distribution

We may sell the securities separately or together:

through one or more underwriters or dealers in a public offering and sale by them;

directly to investors;

through agents; or

through a combination of any of these methods of sale.

We may sell the securities from time to time in one or more transactions:

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

Table of Contents

at market prices prevailing at the times of sale;

at prices related to such prevailing market prices; or

at negotiated prices.

We will set forth in a prospectus supplement the terms of the offering of securities, including:

the name or names of any agents or underwriters, if any;

the purchase price of the securities being offered and the proceeds we will receive from the sale;

any over-allotment options under which underwriters may purchase additional securities from us;

any agency fees or underwriting discounts and other items constituting agents' or underwriters' compensation;

any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers; and

any securities exchanges on which such securities may be listed.

If we use underwriters for a sale of securities, the underwriters will acquire the securities for their own account. The underwriters may resell the securities in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. The obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to the conditions set forth in the applicable underwriting agreement. The underwriters will be obligated to purchase all the securities of the series offered if they purchase any of the securities of that series. We may use underwriters with whom we have a material relationship. We will describe in the prospectus supplement naming the underwriter the nature of any such relationship.

One or more firms, referred to as remarketing firms, may also offer or sell the securities, if the prospectus supplement so indicates, in connection with a remarketing arrangement upon their purchase. Remarketing firms will act as principals for their own accounts or as agents for Odyssey. These remarketing firms will offer or sell the securities pursuant to the terms of the securities. The prospectus supplement will identify any remarketing firm and the terms of its agreement, if any, with Odyssey and will describe the remarketing firm's compensation. Remarketing firms may be deemed to be underwriters in connection with the securities they remarket. Remarketing firms may be entitled under agreements that may be entered into with Odyssey to indemnification by us against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, and may be customers of, engage in transactions with, or perform services for us in the ordinary course of business.

We may determine the price or other terms of the securities offered under this prospectus by use of an electronic auction. We will describe how any auction will determine the price or any other terms, how potential investors may participate in the auction, and the nature of the obligations of the underwriter, dealer, or agent in the applicable

prospectus supplement.

Underwriters, dealers, or agents may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions, or commissions from us or our purchasers (as their agents in connection with the sale of securities). These underwriters, dealers, or agents may be considered to be underwriters under the Securities Act. As a result, discounts, commissions, or profits on resale received by the underwriters, dealers, or agents may be treated as underwriting discounts and commissions. The prospectus supplement will identify any such underwriter, dealer, or agent, and describe any compensation received by them from us. Any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time.

We may authorize agents or underwriters to solicit offers by certain types of institutional investors to purchase securities from us at the public offering price set forth in the prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. We will describe the conditions to these contracts and the commissions we must pay for solicitation of these contracts in the prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

Underwriters, dealers, and agents may be entitled to indemnification by us against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribution with respect to payments made by the underwriters, dealers, or agents, under agreements between us and the underwriters, dealers, and agents.

We may grant underwriters who participate in the distribution of securities an option to purchase additional securities to cover over-allotments, if any, in connection with the distribution.

Underwriters or agents and their associates may be customers of, engage in transactions with, or perform services for us in the ordinary course of business.

Any underwriter may engage in over-allotment, stabilizing transactions, short covering transactions, and penalty bids in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act. Over-allotment involves sales in excess of the offering size, which create a short position. Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum. Short covering transactions involve purchases of the securities in the open market after the distribution is completed to cover short positions. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a dealer when the securities originally sold by the dealer are purchased in a covering transaction to cover short positions. Those activities may cause the price of the securities to be higher than it would otherwise be. If commenced, the underwriters may discontinue any of the activities at any time.

Any underwriters who are qualified market makers on the NASDAQ Stock Market may engage in passive market-making transactions in the securities on the NASDAQ Stock Market in accordance with Rule 103 of Regulation M, during the business day prior to the pricing of the offering, before the commencement of offers or sales of the securities. Passive market makers must comply with applicable volume and price limitations and must be identified as passive market makers. In general, a passive market maker must display its bid at a price not in excess of the highest independent bid for such security; if all independent bids are lowered below the passive market maker's bid, however, the passive market maker's bid must then be lowered when certain purchase limits are exceeded.

Legal Matters

The validity of the securities offered by this prospectus will be passed upon by Akerman LLP, Tampa, Florida.

Experts

The consolidated financial statements of Odyssey and its subsidiaries as of December 31, 2015, 2016, and 2017, incorporated in this prospectus by reference from our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017, have been audited by Ferlita, Walsh, Gonzalez & Rodriguez, P.A., independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report which is incorporated herein by reference and has been so incorporated in reliance upon the report of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

Where You Can Find Additional Information

We have filed a registration statement on Form S-3 with the SEC relating to the common stock, the preferred stock, and the warrants offered by this prospectus. This prospectus does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement and the exhibits and schedules thereto. We have omitted parts of the registration statement, as permitted by the rules and regulations of the SEC. Statements contained in this

Table of Contents

prospectus as to the contents of any contract or other document referred to are not necessarily complete and in each instance reference is made to the copy of such contract or other document filed as an exhibit to the registration statement, each such statement being qualified in all respects by such reference. For further information with respect to us and the common stock, the preferred stock, and the warrants offered hereby, reference is made to such registration statement, exhibits, and schedules.

We are subject to the information and periodic reporting requirements of the Exchange Act, and, in accordance therewith, file periodic reports, current reports, proxy statements, and other information with the SEC. Such periodic reports, current reports, proxy statements, other information, and a copy of the registration statement on Form S-3 may be inspected by anyone without charge and copies of these materials may be obtained upon the payment of the fees prescribed by the SEC, at the Public Reference Room maintained by the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. The public may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The registration statement on Form S-3 and the periodic reports, current reports, proxy statements, and other information filed by us are also available through the Internet web site maintained by the SEC at the following address: <http://www.sec.gov>.

(Remainder of page intentionally left blank.)

Table of Contents

Documents Incorporated by Reference

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference into this prospectus the information we file with it. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information we incorporate by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus, and later information we file with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. The following documents filed with the SEC (in each case, Commission File No. 001-31895) are incorporated by reference in this prospectus:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017;

our Amendment No. 1 to Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2017, as filed with the SEC on September 27, 2018;

our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2018, and June 30, 2018;

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC since December 31, 2017;

our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A for our Annual Meeting of Stockholders held on June 5, 2018; and

the description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed with the SEC on November 13, 2003, pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act, including any subsequently filed amendments and reports updating such description.

We are also incorporating by reference any future filings we make with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Exchange Act until this offering is completed, including those made between the date of filing of the initial registration statement and to the date of effectiveness of the registration statement, except for information furnished under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of our Current Reports on Form 8-K, which is not deemed to be filed and not incorporated by reference herein.

At your verbal or written request, we will provide you, without charge, a copy of any of the documents we have incorporated by reference into this prospectus but not delivered with the prospectus (other than exhibits to such documents, unless those exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference into the documents that this prospectus incorporates). If you want more information, write or call:

Jay A. Nudi, Chief Financial Officer

Odyssey Marine Exploration, Inc.

5215 West Laurel Street

Tampa, Florida 33607

Table of Contents

\$100,000,000

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Warrants

Table of Contents**PART II****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN THE PROSPECTUS****Item 14. *Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.***

The following table sets forth the costs and expenses, other than underwriting discounts and commissions, payable by the registrant in connection with the sale and distribution of the securities being registered hereunder. All amounts shown are estimates except the SEC registration fee.

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| SEC registration fee (1) | \$ 12,120 |
| Printing expenses | 5,000 |
| Legal fees and expenses | 17,500 |
| Accounting fees and expenses | 10,000 |
| Miscellaneous fees and expenses | 380 |
| Total | \$ 45,000 |

(1) See Calculation of Registration Fee on the Cover Page of this Registration Statement.

Item 15. *Indemnification of Directors and Officers.*

Article VII of Odyssey's Articles of Incorporation provides that Odyssey is authorized to indemnify directors, officers, employees, and agents to the full extent allowed for under the Nevada Business Corporation Act.

Article XI of Odyssey's Articles of Incorporation provides that no director, officer or stockholder of Odyssey shall be personally liable for damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director or officer; provided, that this provision shall not eliminate liability of a director or officer for acts or omissions involving intentional misconduct, fraud, or a knowing violation of law or payments or distributions in violation of Nevada law.

Nevada Revised Statutes Section 78.138 currently provides that a director or officer will not be individually liable to the corporation, its stockholders, or its creditors unless it is proven that (a) the director's or officer's act or failure to act constituted a breach of his or her fiduciary duties as a director or officer and (b) such breach involved intentional misconduct, fraud or a knowing violation of the law. To the extent that Article XI of our articles of incorporation would be deemed to be inconsistent with Section 78.138, the provisions of such statute should control.

Additionally, Nevada Revised Statutes Sections 78.7502 and 78.751 permit us to indemnify our directors and officers as follows:

1. A corporation may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, except an action by or in the right of the corporation, by reason of the fact that he is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against expenses, including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him in

connection with the action, suit or proceeding if he (a) is not liable pursuant to Section 78.138 of the Nevada Revised Statutes or (b) acted in good faith and in a manner which he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, does not, of itself, create a presumption that the person is liable pursuant to Section 78.138 or did not act in good faith and in a manner which he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the

II-1

Table of Contents

corporation, or that, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, he had reasonable cause to believe that his conduct was unlawful.

2. A corporation may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of the corporation to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that he is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise against expenses, including amounts paid in settlement and attorneys' fees actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with the defense or settlement of the action or suit if he (a) is not liable pursuant to 78.138 of the Nevada Revised Statutes or (b) acted in good faith and in a manner which he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation. Indemnification may not be made for any claim, issue or matter as to which such a person has been adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction, after exhaustion of all appeals therefrom, to be liable to the corporation or for amounts paid in settlement to the corporation, unless and only to the extent that the court in which the action or suit was brought or other court of competent jurisdiction determines, upon application, that in view of all the circumstances of the case, the person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses as the court deems proper.

3. To the extent that a director, officer, employee or agent of a corporation has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit or proceeding referred to in subsections 1 and 2 above, or in defense of any claim, issue or matter herein, he must be indemnified by the corporation against expenses, including attorneys' fees, actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with the defense.

4. Any discretionary indemnification under subsections 1 and 2 above, unless ordered by a court or advanced pursuant to subsection 5 below, may be made by the corporation only as authorized in the specific case upon a determination that indemnification of the director, officer, employee or agent is proper in the circumstances. The determination must be made:

- (a) by the stockholders;
- (b) by the board of directors by majority vote of a quorum consisting of directors who were not parties to the action, suit or proceeding;
- (c) if a majority vote of a quorum consisting of directors who were not parties to the action, suit or proceeding so orders, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion; or
- (d) if a quorum consisting of directors who were not parties to the action, suit or proceeding cannot be obtained, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion.

5. The articles of incorporation, the bylaws or an agreement made by the corporation may provide that the expenses of officers and directors incurred in defending a civil or criminal action, suit or proceeding must be paid by the corporation as they are incurred and in advance of the final disposition of the action, suit or proceeding, upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the director or officer to repay the amount if it is ultimately determined by a court of competent jurisdiction that he is not entitled to be indemnified by the corporation. The provisions of this subsection do not affect any rights to advancement of expenses to which corporate personnel other than directors or officers may

be entitled under any contract or otherwise by law.

6. The indemnification and advancement of expenses authorized in or ordered by a court pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes Section 78.7502 and Section 78.751:

- (a) does not exclude any other rights to which a person seeking indemnification or advancement of expenses may be entitled under the articles of incorporation or any bylaw, agreement, vote of stockholders or disinterested directors or otherwise, for either an action in his official capacity or an action in another capacity while holding his office, except that indemnification, unless ordered by a court pursuant to subsection 1 or 2 above or for the advancement of expenses made pursuant to subsection 5 above, may not be made to or on behalf of any director or officer if a final

II-2

Table of Contents

adjudication establishes that his acts or omissions involved intentional misconduct, fraud or a knowing violation of the law and was material to the cause of action; and

- (b) continues for a person who has ceased to be a director, officer, employee, or agent and inures to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such a person.

We may also purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of our directors, officers, employees, and agents for any liability asserted against such persons and liability or expenses incurred by such persons in their capacity as a director, officer, employee, or agent, or arising out of status as such, whether or not the company has the authority to indemnify such persons against such liability and expenses.

Item 16. Exhibits.

The exhibits to this registration statement are listed in the Index to Exhibits on Page E-1 of this registration statement, which Index to Exhibits is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 17. Undertakings.

- (a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

- (i) to include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;
- (ii) to reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective Registration Statement; and

(iii) to include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement; *provided, however*, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i), (a)(1)(ii), and (a)(1)(iii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrant pursuant to section 13 or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration, by means of a post-effective amendment, any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser, if the registrant is subject to Rule 430C, each prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) as part of a registration

Table of Contents

statement relating to an offering, other than registration statements relying on Rule 430B or other than prospectuses filed in reliance on Rule 430A, shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the date it is first used after effectiveness; *provided, however*, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such first use, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such date of first use.

(5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities:

The undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

(i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424 (§230.424 of this chapter);

(ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;

(iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant; and

(iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.

(b) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to section 13(a) or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefits plan annual report pursuant to section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered herein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the 1933 Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the 1933 Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the 1933 Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

(d) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes to deliver or cause to be delivered with the prospectus, to each person to whom the prospectus is sent or given, the latest annual report, to security holders that is incorporated by

reference in the prospectus and furnished pursuant to and meeting the requirements of Rule 14a-3 or Rule 14c-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and, where interim financial information required to be presented by Article 3 of Regulation S-X is not set forth in the prospectus, to deliver, or cause to be delivered to each person to whom the prospectus is sent or given, the latest quarterly report that is specifically incorporated by reference in the prospectus to provide such interim financial information.

II-4

Table of Contents

(e) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

Table of Contents

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

Description

agreement

as amended (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-KSB for the year ended February 28, 2011) (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Report on Form 10-KSB filed with the Nevada Secretary of State on June 6, 2011 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Report on Form 10-KSB filed with the Nevada Secretary of State on February 18, 2016 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Report on Form 10-KSB filed with the Nevada Secretary of State on February 18, 2016 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Company's Report on Form 10-KSB filed with the Nevada Secretary of State on February 18, 2016 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Report on Form 8-K dated February 28, 2006).

Restated Bylaws (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Report on Form 8-K filed August 15, 2017).

Exhibits 3.01 through 3.06.

Designation of Preferred Stock.

Warrant (together with form of warrant certificate).

2.

L. Gonzalez and Rodriguez, P.A., Independent Accountants.

2 (included in Exhibit 5.01).

attached on the signature page to this registration statement).

* To be filed by amendment by a report on Form 8-K pursuant to Item 601 of Regulation S-K and incorporated herein by reference.

Table of Contents**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Tampa, State of Florida, on October 2, 2018.

ODYSSEY MARINE EXPLORATION, INC.

By: /s/ Mark D. Gordon
 Mark D. Gordon
Chief Executive Officer

POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that each of the directors and/or executive officers of Odyssey Marine Exploration, Inc. whose signature appears below hereby appoints Mark D. Gordon and Jay A. Nudi, and each of them severally, as his attorney-in-fact to sign in his name and on his behalf, in any and all capacities stated below and to file with the Securities and Exchange Commission, any and all amendments, including post-effective amendments to this registration statement, making such changes in the registration statement as appropriate, and any registration statement filed pursuant to Rule 462(b) of the Act prepared in connection therewith, and generally to do all such things in their behalf in their capacities as officers and directors to enable Odyssey Marine Exploration, Inc. to comply with the provisions of the Securities Act of 1933, and all requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

| | | |
|---|--|-----------------|
| /s/ Mark D. Gordon <i>Mark D. Gordon</i> | Director, President, and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer) | October 2, 2018 |
| /s/ Jay A. Nudi <i>Jay A. Nudi</i> | Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer) | October 2, 2018 |
| /s/ Gregory P. Stemm <i>Gregory P. Stemm</i> | Chairman of the Board | October 2, 2018 |
| /s/ John C. Abbott <i>John C. Abbott</i> | Director | October 2, 2018 |
| /s/ Mark B. Justh <i>Mark B. Justh</i> | Director | October 2, 2018 |

Mark B. Justh

/s/ James S. Pignatelli

Director

October 2, 2018

James S. Pignatelli

/s/ Jon D. Sawyer

Director

October 2, 2018

Jon D. Sawyer

II-7