

THERMO FISHER SCIENTIFIC INC.

Form 424B5

June 05, 2013

Table of Contents

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)

File No. 333-187080

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

Subject to Completion, dated June 5, 2013

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(To prospectus dated March 6, 2013)

\$2,200,000,000

Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.

Common Stock

We expect to enter into forward sale agreements with an affiliate of J.P. Morgan Securities LLC and an affiliate of Barclays Capital Inc., which affiliates we refer to as the forward purchasers. J.P. Morgan Securities LLC and Barclays Capital Inc., each as agent for an affiliate of its respective affiliated forward purchaser, and whom we refer to collectively in such agency capacity as the forward sellers, are, at our request, borrowing from third parties and selling to the underwriters an aggregate of _____ shares of our common stock in connection with forward sale agreements between us and the forward purchasers. If the forward sellers are unable to borrow and deliver for sale on the anticipated closing date such number of shares of our common stock, or if the forward purchasers determine, in their commercially reasonable judgment, that it is either impracticable to do so or that the forward sellers are unable to borrow, at a stock loan rate not greater than a specified amount, and deliver for sale on the anticipated closing date such number of shares of our common stock, then we will issue and sell to the underwriters a number of shares equal to the number of shares that the forward sellers do not borrow and sell.

We will not initially receive any proceeds from the sale of the shares of our common stock offered hereby, except in certain circumstances described in this prospectus supplement. Although we expect to fully physically settle the forward sale agreements entirely by delivering shares of our common stock in exchange for cash proceeds on a date or dates specified by us within approximately 14 months of the date of this prospectus supplement, we may elect cash or net share settlement for all or a portion of our obligations under the forward sale agreements if we conclude it is in our best interest to do so. See "Underwriting Forward sale agreements" for a description of the forward sale agreements.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol TMO. On June 4, 2013, the closing price of our common stock on the New York Stock Exchange was \$88.27 per share.

Per Share Total

Edgar Filing: THERMO FISHER SCIENTIFIC INC. - Form 424B5

Public Offering Price	\$	\$
Underwriting discounts and commissions	\$	\$
Proceeds, before expenses, to us (1)	\$	\$

(1) Depending on the price of our common stock at the time of settlement of the forward sale agreements and the relevant settlement method, we may receive proceeds upon settlement of the forward sale agreements, which settlement must occur no later than approximately 14 months after the date of this prospectus supplement. For the purposes of calculating the aggregate net proceeds to us, we have assumed that the forward sale agreements are fully physically settled based on the initial forward sale price of \$ (which is the public offering price of our common stock, less the underwriting discounts and commissions shown above). The forward sale price is subject to adjustment pursuant to the terms of the forward sale agreements, and the actual proceeds, if any, will be calculated as described in this prospectus supplement. Unless the federal funds rate increases substantially prior to the settlement of the forward sale agreements, we expect to receive less than the initial forward sale price per share upon physical settlement of the forward sale agreements.

We have granted the underwriters an option solely to cover over-allotments for a period of 30 days from the date of this prospectus supplement to purchase from us directly up to such number of shares of our common stock (the *option shares*) that could be purchased with \$330,000,000 at the public offering price, less the underwriting discounts and commissions and the amount of dividends on our common stock for which the relevant record date occurs during the period from and including , 2013 to but excluding the date the relevant option shares are purchased by the underwriters. We may elect, in our sole discretion if such option is exercised, that such additional shares of common stock be sold by the forward sellers to the underwriters (in which case we will enter into additional forward sale agreements with the forward purchasers in respect of the number of shares that are subject to the exercise of the underwriters' over-allotment option). Unless the context requires otherwise, the term *forward sale agreements* as used in this prospectus supplement includes any additional forward sale agreements that we elect to enter into in connection with the exercise, by the underwriters, of their over-allotment option. In the event that we enter into additional forward sale agreements and elect that any additional shares be sold by the forward sellers to the underwriters, if the forward sellers are unable to borrow and deliver for sale on the anticipated closing date for the exercise of such option the number of shares of our common stock with respect to which such option has been exercised, or if the forward purchasers determine, in their commercially reasonable judgment, that it is either impracticable to do so or that the forward sellers are unable to borrow, at a stock loan rate not greater than a specified amount, and deliver for sale on the anticipated closing date for the exercise of such option the number of shares of our common stock with respect to which such option has been exercised, then we will issue and sell to the underwriters a number of shares equal to the number of shares that the forward sellers do not borrow and sell.

Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. See Risk factors beginning on page S-14 of this prospectus supplement and in the documents incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus.

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

The underwriters are offering the shares of our common stock as set forth under Underwriting. The underwriters expect to deliver the shares on or about , 2013.

J.P. Morgan

BofA Merrill Lynch

Barclays

The date of this prospectus supplement is , 2013

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prospectus Supplement

	Page
<u>About This Prospectus Supplement</u>	ii
<u>Special Note About Forward-Looking Statements</u>	S-1
<u>Summary</u>	S-2
<u>Risk Factors</u>	S-14
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	S-26
<u>Capitalization</u>	S-27
<u>Price Range of Common Stock and Dividends</u>	S-28
<u>Material U.S. Tax Considerations For Non-U.S. Holders of Common Stock</u>	S-29
<u>Underwriting</u>	S-33
<u>Conflicts of Interest</u>	S-40
<u>Legal Matters</u>	S-41
<u>Experts</u>	S-41
<u>Where You Can Find More Information and Incorporation by Reference</u>	S-42

Prospectus

	Page
<u>About This Prospectus</u>	1
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	1
<u>Incorporation By Reference</u>	1
<u>Forward-Looking Statements</u>	2
<u>Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.</u>	2
<u>Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	4
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	4
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	4
<u>Description of Capital Stock</u>	17
<u>Description of Depositary Shares</u>	24
<u>Description of Purchase Contracts and Purchase Units</u>	27
<u>Description of Warrants</u>	27
<u>Forms of Securities</u>	28
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	30
<u>Legal Matters</u>	32
<u>Experts</u>	32

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This document consists of two parts. The first part is the prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of this offering. The second part is the prospectus, which describes more general information, some of which may not apply to this offering. You should read this prospectus supplement, any related free writing prospectus, and the accompanying prospectus, together with the additional information described under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information and Incorporation By Reference" on page S-42.

In this prospectus supplement, except as otherwise indicated or unless the context otherwise requires, Thermo Fisher, the Company, we, us and our refer to Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries. If the information set forth in this prospectus supplement differs in any way from the information set forth in the accompanying prospectus, you should rely on the information set forth in this prospectus supplement.

Currency amounts in this prospectus supplement are stated in U.S. dollars.

This prospectus supplement, any related free writing prospectus, and the accompanying prospectus may be used only for the purpose for which they have been prepared. No one is authorized to give information other than that contained in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement, any related free writing prospectus, and the accompanying prospectus. We have not, and the underwriters, the forward sellers and the forward purchasers have not, authorized any other person to provide you with different information. Neither we nor any of the underwriters, the forward sellers and the forward purchasers or their respective affiliates take any responsibility for, nor can we or any of the underwriters, the forward sellers and the forward purchasers or their respective affiliates provide any assurance as to the reliability of, any information that others may give you.

You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus supplement, any related free writing prospectus, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference is accurate only as of the respective dates of those documents. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates. Neither this prospectus supplement, any related free writing prospectus, nor the accompanying prospectus constitutes an offer, or a solicitation on our behalf or on behalf of the underwriters, to subscribe for and purchase any of the securities and may not be used for or in connection with an offer or solicitation by anyone in any jurisdiction in which such an offer or solicitation is not authorized or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such an offer or solicitation.

Table of Contents

SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus supplement contains or incorporates by reference certain statements that are, or may be deemed to be, forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the *Securities Act*), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the *Exchange Act*). Any statements contained in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement, any related free writing prospectus, or the accompanying prospectus that are not statements of historical fact may be deemed to be forward-looking statements. Without limiting the foregoing, the words believes, anticipates, plans, expects, seeks, estimates, could, v intends and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements also include without limitation statements relating to our recently announced agreement to acquire Life Technologies Corporation (*Life Technologies*), our expectations regarding, and our ability to complete, the financing necessary to consummate the Life Technologies acquisition, the satisfaction of conditions precedent to, and the consummation of, our acquisition of Life Technologies, and our ability to secure regulatory approvals and Life Technologies ability to obtain the approval of its stockholders, in each case including the timing thereof. While we may elect to update forward-looking statements in the future, we specifically disclaim any obligation to do so even if our estimates and/or expectations change, and you should not rely on those forward-looking statements as representing our views as of any date subsequent to the date of this prospectus supplement.

A number of important factors could cause our results to differ materially from those indicated by such forward-looking statements, including those detailed under the heading Risk Factors below and in the documents incorporated herein by reference.

S-1

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

The following summary highlights information contained elsewhere in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein or therein. It may not contain all of the information that you should consider before investing in our common stock. For a more complete discussion of the information you should consider before investing in our common stock, you should carefully read this entire prospectus supplement, any related free writing prospectus, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein or therein.

Our Company

Thermo Fisher is the world leader in serving science. Our mission is to enable our customers to make the world healthier, cleaner and safer by providing analytical instruments, equipment, reagents and consumables, software and services for research, manufacturing, analysis, discovery and diagnostics.

In November 2006, Thermo Electron Corporation merged with Fisher Scientific International Inc. to create Thermo Fisher. As of March 30, 2013, we have approximately 38,900 employees and serve more than 350,000 customers within pharmaceutical and biotech companies, hospitals and clinical diagnostic labs, universities, research institutions and government agencies, as well as environmental, industrial quality and process control settings.

We serve our customers through three premier brands, Thermo Scientific, Fisher Scientific and Unity Lab Services:

Thermo Scientific is our technology brand, offering customers a complete range of high-end analytical instruments as well as laboratory equipment, software, services, consumables and reagents. Our portfolio of products includes innovative technologies for mass spectrometry, elemental analysis, molecular spectroscopy, sample preparation, informatics chemical research and analysis, cell culture, bioprocess production, cellular, protein and molecular biology research, allergy testing, drugs-of-abuse testing, therapeutic drug monitoring testing, microbiology, anatomical pathology, transplant diagnostics, as well as environmental monitoring and process control.

Fisher Scientific is our channels brand, offering customers a complete portfolio of laboratory equipment, chemicals, supplies and services used in scientific research, healthcare, safety and education markets. These products are offered through an extensive network of direct sales professionals, industry-specific catalogs, e-commerce capabilities and supply-chain management services. We also offer a range of biopharma services for clinical trials management and biospecimen storage.

Unity Lab Services is our services brand, offering a complete portfolio of services from enterprise level engagements to individual instruments and laboratory equipment, regardless of the original manufacturer. Our services are designed to help our customers improve productivity, reduce costs and drive decisions with better data and information. Unity Lab Services offers a network of world-class service and support personnel with proven expertise to provide our customers with solutions that improve their laboratory operations.

In addition to our three premier brands, we offer a number of specialty brands that cover a range of products.

We continuously increase our depth of capabilities in technologies, software and services, and leverage our extensive global channels to address our customers' emerging needs. Our goal is to make our customers more productive in an increasingly competitive business environment, and to allow them to solve their challenges, from complex research to improved patient care, environmental and process monitoring, and consumer safety.

Table of Contents

Thermo Fisher is a Delaware corporation and was incorporated in 1956. The company completed its initial public offering in 1967 and was listed on the New York Stock Exchange in 1980. The company's principal executive offices are located at 81 Wyman Street, Waltham, Massachusetts 02451, and its telephone number is (781) 622-1000.

Business Segments and Products

We report our business in three segments: Analytical Technologies; Specialty Diagnostics; and Laboratory Products and Services.

Analytical Technologies Segment

Through our Analytical Technologies Segment, we provide a broad offering of instruments, reagents, consumables, software and services that are used for a range of applications in the laboratory, on the production line and in the field. These products are used by customers in all four of our key end markets: pharmaceutical and biotechnology; academic and government; industrial and applied; and healthcare and diagnostics. This segment includes four primary businesses—Chromatography and Mass Spectrometry, Chemical Analysis, Environmental and Process Monitoring Instruments, and Biosciences.

Chromatography and Mass Spectrometry

Our chromatography and mass spectrometry business provides analytical instrumentation for organic and inorganic sample analysis. These products are complemented by laboratory information management systems (LIMS); chromatography data systems (CDS); database analytical tools; automation systems; and a range of consumables, such as a full line of chromatography columns. Our comprehensive mass spectrometry offering includes life sciences mass spectrometry systems; inorganic mass spectrometry systems; and elemental analysis instrumentation; as well as a range of sample preparation and separation products including auto-samplers and multiplexing systems. Our chromatography product line includes high performance liquid chromatography, ion chromatography and gas chromatography systems.

We also provide a complete portfolio of services, from single instrument support to enterprise-wide asset management solutions designed to help our customers improve productivity and quality while reducing total cost of ownership and ensuring regulatory compliance.

Chemical Analysis

Our chemical analysis products fall into four main categories: materials and minerals; molecular spectroscopy; product inspection, radiation and security measurement and portable analytical instruments. Customers use these products to quickly and accurately analyze the composition of materials in small samples to optimize workflows in academic, life sciences, pharmaceutical, food and beverage safety and security; and industrial applications. Our product lines range from those used in the laboratory for research or forensics, to those used on the production line to improve quality and efficiency, to portable systems for rapid and real-time identification in the field.

Environmental and Process Monitoring Instruments

Our environmental and process monitoring instruments help our customers comply with government regulations and industry safety standards; analyze and improve product quality or increase process efficiency. Our environmental analysis instruments include portable and fixed instrumentation that help our customers protect people and the environment, with particular focus on environmental compliance. Our process instrumentation is used for optimization and control in a range of process industries. Key end markets include power generation; petrochemical; and oil and gas; federal, state and local agencies; and general commercial and academic laboratories.

Table of Contents

Biosciences

Our biosciences offerings include reagents, instruments and consumables that help our customers conduct biological and medical research, discover and produce new drugs and vaccines, and diagnose disease. These products fall into three main categories: life science research, chemicals and bioprocess production.

Specialty Diagnostics Segment

Our Specialty Diagnostics segment offers a wide range of diagnostic test kits, reagents, culture media, instruments and associated products in order to serve customers in healthcare, clinical, pharmaceutical, industrial, and food safety laboratories. Our healthcare products are used to increase the speed and accuracy of diagnoses, which improves patient care in a more cost efficient manner. This segment has six primary businesses: ImmunoDiagnostics, Clinical Diagnostics, Transplant Diagnostics, Microbiology, Anatomical Pathology, and our Healthcare Market Channel.

ImmunoDiagnostics offerings include developing, manufacturing and marketing complete blood-test systems to support the clinical diagnosis and monitoring of allergy, asthma and autoimmune diseases.

Clinical Diagnostics products include a broad offering of liquid, ready-to-use and lyophilized immunodiagnostic reagent kits, calibrators, controls and calibration verification fluids.

Transplant Diagnostics offerings include several lines of HLA typing and antibody detection assays utilizing serological, molecular, ELISA, flow, and Luminex xMAP technologies.

Microbiology offerings include dehydrated and prepared culture media, collection and transport systems, diagnostic and rapid direct specimen tests, quality-control products and associated products for the microbiology laboratory.

Anatomical Pathology offerings include a broad portfolio of products primarily for cancer diagnosis and medical research in histology, cytology and hematology applications.

Healthcare Market Customer Channel offerings include a broad array of consumables, diagnostic kits and reagents, equipment, instruments, solutions and services for hospitals, clinical laboratories, reference laboratories, physicians' offices and other clinical testing facilities.

Laboratory Products and Services Segment

Our Laboratory Products and Services segment offers virtually everything needed for the laboratory. Our unique combination of self-manufactured and sourced products and extensive service offerings enable our customers to focus on their core activities and helps them to be more efficient, productive and cost effective. We serve the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, academic, government and other research and industrial markets, as well as the clinical laboratory through four key businesses: Laboratory Equipment, Laboratory Consumables, Research and Safety Market Channel, and BioPharma Services.

Laboratory Equipment

Our Laboratory Equipment products are used primarily by pharmaceutical companies for drug discovery and development and by biotechnology companies and universities for life science research to advance the prevention and cure of diseases and enhance quality of life. This offering consists of equipment, accessories, and services for sample preparation, storage and protection, and analysis, with product categories including: sample preparation and preservation equipment, cold storage equipment, centrifugation products, biological safety cabinets, temperature control products, water analysis instruments and other laboratory equipment.

S-4

Table of Contents

Laboratory Consumables

Our laboratory consumables products include plastics, glass and related equipment, which customers use every day to support their scientific research; drug discovery and development; quality and process control; and clinical and basic research and development needs. Our product categories include cell culture and bioproduction; sample preparation and storage; liquid handling; detection instruments; and specialty products and services.

Research and Safety Market Customer Channel

Our Research and Safety Market Customer Channel serves academic, pharmaceutical, biotechnology, government and industrial customers through our Fisher Scientific, Fisher Science Education and Cole-Parmer offerings. Our channel offers a mix of products that are manufactured by Thermo Fisher, by third parties for us on a private-label basis, and by third parties under their brand but offered for sale exclusively through us. We also offer a broad range of third-party products representing leading industry brand names on a non-exclusive basis.

BioPharma Services

Our BioPharma Services offerings include global services for pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies engaged in clinical trials, including specialized packaging; over-encapsulation; multi-lingual and specialized labeling and distribution for phase I through phase IV clinical trials; biological-specimen management; specialty pharmaceutical logistics; and clinical supply-chain management. Thermo Fisher's biorepository business provides temperature-controlled repository services for pharmaceutical, biotechnology, university, government, clinical and blood-processing customers.

Recent Developments

Acquisition of Life Technologies

On April 14, 2013, we entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger (the *Merger Agreement*) with Life Technologies, and Polpis Merger Sub Co., a Delaware corporation and a wholly owned subsidiary of Thermo Fisher (the *Merger Sub*), providing for, subject to the satisfaction or waiver of specified conditions, the acquisition of Life Technologies by Thermo Fisher at a price of \$76 per share in cash, subject to adjustment as described below. Subject to the terms and conditions of the Merger Agreement, Merger Sub will be merged with and into Life Technologies, with Life Technologies surviving the Merger as a wholly owned subsidiary of Thermo Fisher (the *Life Technologies Acquisition*).

At the effective time of the Life Technologies Acquisition, each share of Life Technologies' common stock issued and outstanding immediately prior to the effective time (other than shares owned by (i) Life Technologies or Thermo Fisher (which will be cancelled) or their respective wholly owned subsidiaries (which will be cancelled or converted into stock of the surviving corporation) or (ii) stockholders who have properly exercised and perfected appraisal rights under Delaware law) will be converted into the right to receive \$76 in cash, without interest. If the Life Technologies Acquisition does not close by January 14, 2014, by reason of the failure to obtain certain required antitrust approvals or the issuance or enactment by a governmental authority of an order or law prohibiting or restraining the Life Technologies Acquisition (and such prohibition or restraint is in respect of an antitrust law), the cash price per share will increase by \$0.0062466 per day during the period commencing on, and including, January 14, 2014, and ending on, and including, the closing date.

We currently expect to finance the \$13.6 billion purchase price for the Life Technologies Acquisition with up to \$3.25 billion of equity financing, of which this offering is a part and with respect to which we anticipate raising up to a maximum of an additional \$1.05 billion of mandatorily convertible debt, preference shares or

Table of Contents

other equity-linked securities, with the remaining portion of the purchase price to be financed with debt and cash on hand. We intend to use the anticipated net proceeds that we receive upon settlement of the forward sale agreements, or from any sales of shares of our common stock to the underwriters in the circumstances described under **Risk factors** **Risks Relating to the Offering** and **Underwriting** **Forward sale agreement**, to fund a portion of the cash consideration payable in connection with the Life Technologies Acquisition (which is estimated to aggregate \$13.6 billion) and to pay certain costs associated with the Life Technologies Acquisition. This offering is not conditioned on the closing of the Life Technologies Acquisition, and we cannot assure you that the Life Technologies Acquisition will be completed. See **Use of Proceeds**.

The completion of the Life Technologies Acquisition is subject to certain customary conditions, including the adoption of the Merger Agreement by Life Technologies' stockholders, the receipt of certain required antitrust approvals, and the absence of any law or order prohibiting or restraining the Life Technologies Acquisition. Each of Thermo Fisher's and Life Technologies' obligation to complete the Life Technologies Acquisition is also subject to certain additional customary conditions, including (i) subject to certain materiality qualifiers, the accuracy of the representations and warranties of the other party, (ii) performance in all material respects by the other party of its obligations under the Merger Agreement, and (iii), in the case of Thermo Fisher's obligations to complete the Life Technologies Acquisition, there not having been any effect, change, event, circumstance, or occurrence that has had or would reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect (as such term is defined in the Merger Agreement) on Life Technologies. The Life Technologies Acquisition is not conditioned upon Thermo Fisher's receipt of financing. The Credit Facility provides for up to \$5.0 billion of senior unsecured term loans, to be used to refinance indebtedness outstanding under the Bridge Facility described below or, if the Bridge Facility has not been funded, to fund, in part, the acquisition or the transactions contemplated thereby.

A copy of the Merger Agreement is included as an exhibit to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on April 16, 2013, which is incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement. The foregoing description of the Merger Agreement does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Merger Agreement.

The Merger Agreement has been incorporated by reference herein solely to provide investors and security holders with information regarding its terms. It is not intended to be a source of financial, business or operational information about Thermo Fisher, Life Technologies or their respective subsidiaries or affiliates. The representations, warranties and covenants contained in the Merger Agreement are made only for purposes of the agreement and are made as of specific dates; are solely for the benefit of the parties; may be subject to qualifications and limitations agreed upon by the parties in connection with negotiating the terms of the Merger Agreement, including being qualified by confidential disclosures made for the purpose of allocating contractual risk between the parties instead of establishing matters as facts; and may be subject to standards of materiality applicable to the contracting parties that differ from those applicable to investors or security holders. Investors and security holders should not rely on the representations, warranties and covenants or any description thereof as characterizations of the actual state of facts or condition of Thermo Fisher, Life Technologies or their respective subsidiaries or affiliates. Moreover, information concerning the subject matter of the representations, warranties and covenants may change after the date of the Merger Agreement, which subsequent information may or may not be fully reflected in public disclosures. As to factual matters concerning Thermo Fisher and Life Technologies, you should not rely upon the representations and warranties in the Merger Agreement.

In order to partially finance the Life Technologies Acquisition, we have entered into a commitment letter, dated April 14, 2013, with JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., J.P. Morgan Securities LLC and Barclays Bank PLC (the *Commitment Letter*). On May 31, 2013, pursuant to the Commitment Letter, we entered into a 364-day unsecured bridge loan facility that provides a commitment for a up to \$12.5 billion (the *Bridge Facility*). The Bridge Facility will have generally the same representations and warranties, covenants (including financial

Table of Contents

covenants) and events of default as our existing 2012 credit agreement, with some additional modifications to reflect the proposed Life Technologies Acquisition (including our increased leverage, in the case of the consolidated leverage ratio covenant) and an additional financial covenant consisting of a minimum interest coverage ratio of 3.0 to 1.0. The aggregate commitments in respect of the Bridge Facility or under the loan documents pursuant to the Bridge Facility shall be permanently reduced, and loans under the Bridge Facility shall be prepaid, in each case, on a dollar-for-dollar basis, by any proceeds actually received by us from this offering.

On May 31, 2013, we entered into a credit facility (the *Term Credit Facility*) with JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as administrative agent, J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, Barclays Bank PLC and the other financial institutions from time to time party thereto. The Term Credit Facility provides for up to \$5.0 billion of senior unsecured term loans, to be used to refinance indebtedness outstanding under the Bridge Facility or, if the Bridge Facility has not been funded, to fund, in part, the Life Technologies Acquisition or the transactions contemplated thereby.

We anticipate receiving on June 7, 2013, a request for additional information and documentary material, often referred to as a *Second Request*, from the United States Federal Trade Commission (the *FTC*) in connection with the FTC's Hart-Scott-Rodino regulatory review of the Life Technologies Acquisition. We have been working, and will continue to work, cooperatively with the FTC and continue to expect the Life Technologies Acquisition to close in early 2014.

Declaration of Dividend

On May 23, 2013, we announced that our board of directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.15 per share of our common stock. The dividend will be paid on July 15, 2013 to shareholders of record as of June 17, 2013.

Risk Factors

An investment in our common stock involves risk. You should carefully consider the information set forth in the section of this prospectus supplement entitled *Risk Factors* beginning on page S-14, as well as other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, before deciding whether to invest in our common stock.

Table of Contents

The Offering

Issuer:	Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc., a Delaware corporation.
Common stock offered by the forward sellers:	An aggregate of shares, or an aggregate of shares if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option in full and we elect to have the forward sellers sell the additional shares.
Common stock to be outstanding after the offering:	shares of common stock (based on shares outstanding as of May 31, 2013) assuming all shares offered hereby are borrowed and sold by the forward sellers.
Common stock to be outstanding after settlement of the forward sale agreements assuming physical settlement in whole:	shares, or shares if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option in full.
Use of proceeds:	<p>We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of the shares of common stock offered by the forward sellers pursuant to this prospectus supplement, unless (i) an event occurs that requires us to sell our common stock to the underwriters in lieu of the forward sellers selling our common stock to the underwriters, or (ii) the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option and we elect to sell the additional shares of our common stock covered by such option to the underwriters rather than requiring the forward sellers to borrow and sell such additional shares to the underwriters.</p> <p>Depending on the price of our common stock at the time of settlement and the relevant settlement method, we may receive proceeds from the sale of common stock upon settlement of the forward sale agreements, which settlement must occur within approximately 14 months of the date of this prospectus supplement. At an initial forward sale price of \$ per share, we expect to receive net proceeds of \$ (or \$ if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option in full and we elect to have the forward sellers sell the option shares to the underwriters), subject to the price adjustment and other provisions of the forward sale agreements, in the event of full physical settlement of the forward sale agreements. For purposes of calculating the proceeds to us upon settlement of the forward sale agreements, we have assumed that the forward sale agreements are fully physically settled based upon the initial forward sale price of \$ (which is the public offering price of our common stock after deducting the applicable underwriting discounts and commissions shown on the cover of this prospectus supplement) on the effective date of the forward sale agreements, which will be , 2013, and that the underwriters have not exercised their option to purchase up to an additional shares to cover over-allotments. The actual proceeds that we receive will be determined upon final</p>

Table of Contents

settlement of the forward sale agreements. Unless the federal funds rate increases substantially prior to the settlement of the forward sale agreements, we expect to receive less than the initial forward sale price per share upon physical settlement of the forward sale agreements. See

Underwriting Forward sale agreements for a description of the forward sale agreements.

We intend to use any net proceeds that we receive upon settlement of the forward sale agreements, or from any sales of shares of our common stock to the underwriters in the circumstances described under Risk factors Risks Relating to the Offering and Underwriting Forward sale agreements, to fund a portion of the \$13.6 billion in cash consideration payable in connection with the Life Technologies Acquisition and to pay certain costs associated with the Life Technologies Acquisition. This offering is not conditioned on the closing of the Life Technologies Acquisition, and we cannot assure you that the Life Technologies Acquisition will be completed. See Use of proceeds.

If the Life Technologies Acquisition is not completed we intend to use any net proceeds that we receive upon settlement of the forward sale agreements, or from any sales of shares of our common stock to the underwriters in the circumstances described under Risk factors Risks Relating to the Offering and Underwriting Forward sale agreements, for general corporate purposes, which may include, without limitation, repayment, redemption or refinancing of indebtedness, capital expenditures, funding of possible acquisitions, working capital, satisfaction of other obligations or the repurchase of our outstanding equity securities.

We expect to pay the remaining amount of the purchase price and related fees and expenses from up to a maximum of an additional \$1.05 billion of mandatorily convertible debt, preference shares or other equity-linked securities, from debt issuances, including under the new Term Credit Facility, and from cash on hand.

Accounting treatment:

Before any issuance of our common stock upon physical or net share settlement of the forward sale agreements, we expect that the shares issuable upon settlement of the forward sale agreements will be reflected in our diluted earnings per share calculations using the treasury stock method. Under this method, the number of shares of our common stock used in calculating diluted earnings per share is deemed to be increased by the excess, if any, of the number of shares that would be issued upon physical settlement of the forward sale agreements over the number of shares that could be purchased by us in the market (based on the average market price during the period) using the proceeds due upon settlement (based on the adjusted forward

Table of Contents

sale price at the end of the reporting period). Consequently, prior to physical or net share settlement of the forward sale agreements and subject to the occurrence of certain events, we anticipate there will be no dilutive effect on our earnings per share except during periods when the average market price of our common stock is above the per share adjusted forward sale price, which is initially \$ (which is the public offering price of our common stock, less the underwriting discounts and commissions shown on the cover page of this prospectus supplement), subject to adjustment based on the federal funds rate less an agreed upon spread, and subject to decrease on each of certain dates specified in the forward sale agreements. However, if we physically or net share settle the forward sale agreements, the delivery of shares of our common stock would result in an increase in the number of shares outstanding and may result in dilution to our earnings per share and return on equity.

NYSE symbol:

TMO.

Conflicts of interest:

All of the proceeds of this offering (excluding proceeds paid to us with respect to any common stock that we may sell to the underwriters in lieu of the forward sellers selling our common stock to the underwriters and, if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option and we elect to issue the additional shares to cover over-allotments directly, the proceeds to us from the issuance of such additional shares) will be paid to the forward purchasers. As a result, an affiliate of J.P. Morgan Securities LLC and an affiliate of Barclays Capital Inc. will each receive more than 5% of the net proceeds of this offering, not including underwriting compensation. Accordingly, this offering is being made in compliance with the requirements of Rule 5121 (Public Offerings of Securities with Conflicts of Interest) of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (*FINRA*). Pursuant to that rule, the appointment of a qualified independent underwriter is not necessary in connection with this offering, as the shares of common stock have a bona fide public market (as such terms are defined in *FINRA* Rule 5121).

Dividend policy:

We pay a regular quarterly cash dividend and expect to continue paying a regular quarterly dividend for the foreseeable future. See Price range of common stock and dividends.

Transfer agent and registrar:

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

S-10

Table of Contents

Risk factors:

Investing in our common stock involves risks. Potential investors are urged to consider the risk factors relating to our business and an investment in our common stock described under **Risk Factors** in this prospectus supplement.

Unless otherwise indicated, the number of shares of our common stock presented in this prospectus supplement:

assumes that we will not be required to issue the shares of our common stock that are the subject of this offering (however, if the forward sellers are unable to borrow and deliver for sale on the anticipated closing date such number of shares of our common stock, or if the forward purchasers determine, in their commercially reasonable judgment, that it is either impracticable to do so or that the forward sellers are unable to borrow, or unable to borrow at a stock loan rate not greater than a specified threshold, all or a portion of the amount, and deliver for sale on the anticipated closing date such number of shares of our common stock that are the subject of this offering, then we will issue and sell for cash to the underwriters a number of shares of common stock equal to the number of shares that the forward sellers do not borrow and sell);

assumes the underwriters will not exercise their option to purchase up to shares from us to cover over-allotments;

excludes 57,591,096 shares held in treasury as of May 31, 2013;

excludes 15,568,318 shares issuable upon the exercise of outstanding stock options and restricted stock awards as of May 31, 2013; and

excludes an estimated 29,975,386 shares reserved for issuance pursuant to future grants of awards under our stock compensation plans as of May 31, 2013.

S-11

Table of Contents**Summary Consolidated Financial Data**

The following table presents summary consolidated financial data as of and for the periods indicated. The statement of income data for each of the fiscal years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2012 and the balance sheet data as of December 31, 2012 and 2011 have been derived from the audited consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012 as updated by the Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 3, 2013, which are incorporated by reference herein. The statement of income data for each of the three-month periods ended March 31, 2012 and March 30, 2013 and the balance sheet data as of March 30, 2013 have been derived from the unaudited consolidated financial statements included in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 30, 2013 filed with the SEC on May 3, 2013 (the *First Quarter 2013 Form 10-Q*), which is incorporated herein by reference. In the opinion of management, our unaudited summary consolidated financial data reflect all adjustments of a normal recurring nature necessary for a fair presentation of such financial data. In the opinion of management, our interim financial statements have been prepared on the same basis as our audited consolidated financial statements. Interim results are not necessarily indicative of results of operations for the full year. You should read the following table in conjunction with the information contained in our Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and our audited consolidated financial statements and related notes in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012 as updated by the Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 3, 2013 and our unaudited consolidated financial statements and related notes in our First Quarter 2013 Form 10-Q.

	Three Months Ended		Fiscal Year Ended December 31,		
	March 30,	March 31,			
	2013(a)	2012(b)	2012(c)	2011(d)	2010(e)
	(In millions except per share amounts)				
	(unaudited)				
Statement of Income Data					
Revenues	\$ 3,191.5	\$ 3,056.8	\$ 12,509.9	\$ 11,558.8	\$ 10,393.1
Operating Income	387.1	361.5	1,482.1	1,250.8	1,188.1
Income from Continuing Operations	340.8	280.8	1,258.4	1,023.4	986.1
Net Income	336.2	277.3	1,177.9	1,329.9	1,035.6
Earnings per Share from Continuing Operations:					
Basic	.95	.76	3.46	2.69	2.45
Diluted	.94	.76	3.43	2.66	2.41
Earnings per Share:					
Basic	.94	.76	3.24	3.49	2.57
Diluted	.93	.75	3.21	3.46	2.53

	As of		As of December 31,		
	March 30,	March 31,			
	2013(a)	2012(b)	2012(c)	2011(d)	2010(e)
	(In millions)				
	(unaudited)				
Balance Sheet Data					
Working Capital	\$ 2,833.3	\$ 1,924.1	\$ 2,741.5	\$ 1,708.8	\$ 2,425.2
Total Assets	27,410.7	26,822.7	27,444.6	26,833.7	21,349.4
Long-term Obligations	6,724.4	5,751.0	7,031.2	5,755.2	2,031.3
Shareholders' Equity	15,599.5	15,289.0	15,464.7	15,038.1	15,361.0

The caption "restructuring and other costs" in the notes below includes amounts charged to cost of revenues, primarily for the sale of inventories revalued at the date of the acquisition, and charges/credits to selling, general and administrative expense primarily for significant acquisition transaction costs.

Table of Contents

(a) Reflects a \$36.0 million pre-tax charge for restructuring and other costs; after-tax loss of \$4.6 million related to the company's discontinued operations; and the repurchase of \$89.8 million of the company's common stock.

(b) Reflects a \$31.1 million pre-tax charge for restructuring and other costs; after-tax loss of \$3.5 million related to the company's discontinued operations; and the repurchase of \$300.0 million of the company's common stock.

(c) Reflects a \$150.2 million pre-tax charge for restructuring and other costs; after-tax loss of \$80.5 million related to the company's discontinued operations; and the repurchase of \$1.15 billion of the company's common stock.

(d) Reflects a \$230.6 million pre-tax charge for restructuring and other costs; after-tax income of \$306.5 million related to the company's discontinued operations; and the repurchase of \$1.34 billion of the company's common stock. Also reflects the acquisitions of Dionex Corporation, in May 2011, and the Phadia group, in August 2011.

(e) Reflects a \$76.4 million pre-tax charge for restructuring and other costs; after-tax income of \$49.5 million related to the company's discontinued operations; and the repurchase of \$1.01 billion of the company's common stock.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our common stock involves risks, including the risks described below that are specific to our common stock and those that could affect us and our business. You should carefully consider the following risks and the other information contained in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus before investing in our common stock. In addition to the risks described below, our business is subject to risks that affect many other companies, such as competition, technological obsolescence, labor relations, general economic conditions, geopolitical events and international operations. Additional risks not currently known to us or that we currently believe are immaterial also may impair our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

Risks Relating to the Offering

Settlement provisions contained in the forward sale agreements subject us to certain risks.

Each forward purchaser will have the right to accelerate its respective forward sale agreement and require us to physically settle its forward sale agreement on a date specified by such forward purchaser if:

in the commercially reasonable judgment of such forward purchaser, it or its affiliate is unable to hedge its exposure under its forward sale agreement because (i) of the lack of sufficient shares of our common stock being made available for borrowing by lenders, or (ii) such forward purchaser (or its affiliate) would incur a cost to borrow shares to hedge its exposure that is greater than a rate equal to 200 basis points per annum;

we declare any dividend or distribution on shares of our common stock payable in (i) cash in excess of a specified amount, (ii) securities of another company, or (iii) any other type of securities (other than our common stock), rights, warrants or other assets for payment at less than the prevailing market price, as determined by such forward purchaser;

certain ownership thresholds applicable to such forward purchaser are exceeded;

an event is announced that, if consummated, would result in an extraordinary event (as defined in each forward sale agreement) including, among other things, certain mergers and tender offers, as well as certain events involving our nationalization or delisting of our common stock (each as more fully described in each forward sale agreement); or

certain other events of default or termination events occur, including, among other things, any material misrepresentation made in connection with entering into its forward sale agreement (as more fully described in each forward sale agreement).

Each forward purchaser's decision to exercise its right to accelerate its forward sale agreement and to require us to settle such forward sale agreement will be made irrespective of our interests, including our need for capital. In such cases, we could be required to issue and deliver our common stock under the terms of the physical settlement provisions of the relevant forward sale agreement irrespective of our capital needs, which would result in dilution to our earnings per share and return on equity. In addition, upon certain events of bankruptcy or insolvency relating to us, the forward sale agreements will terminate without further liability of either party. Following any such termination, we would not issue any shares and we would not receive any proceeds pursuant to the forward sale agreements.

The forward sale agreements provide for settlement on a settlement date or dates to be specified at our discretion within approximately 14 months from the date of this prospectus supplement.

The forward sale agreements will be physically settled, unless we elect cash or net share settlement under the forward sale agreements (which we have the right to do, subject to certain conditions, other than in the

Table of Contents

limited circumstances described above). Subject to the provisions of the forward sale agreements, delivery of our shares upon physical or net share settlement of the forward sale agreements will result in dilution to our earnings per share and return on equity. If we elect to cash or net share settle all or a portion of the shares of our common stock underlying the forward sale agreements, we would expect the relevant forward purchaser or one of its affiliates to purchase the number of shares necessary, based on the number of shares with respect to which we have elected cash or net share settlement, in order to satisfy its obligation to return the shares of our common stock it had borrowed in connection with sales of our common stock under this prospectus supplement and, if applicable in connection with net share settlement, to deliver shares of our common stock to us. If the market value of our common stock at the time of such purchase is above the forward sale price at that time, we will pay or deliver, as the case may be, to the relevant forward purchaser under the forward sale agreement, an amount in cash, or a number of shares of our common stock with a market value, equal to such difference. Any such difference could be significant. Conversely, if the market value of our common stock at the time of such purchase is below the forward sale price at that time, such forward purchaser will pay or deliver, as the case may be, to us under its forward sale agreement, an amount in cash, or a number of shares of our common stock with a market value, equal to such difference. See **Underwriting Forward sale agreements** for information on the forward sale agreements.

In addition, if we elect cash or net share settlement, the purchase of our common stock by the forward purchasers or their respective affiliates, to unwind the forward purchasers' hedge positions, could cause the price of our common stock to increase over time, thereby increasing the amount of cash we owe to the forward purchasers or decreasing the amount of cash that the forward purchasers owe us, as the case may be, in the event of cash settlement, or increasing the number of shares of our common stock we owe to the forward purchasers or decreasing the number of shares of our common stock that the forward purchasers owe us, as the case may be, in the event of net share settlement. We will not be able to control the manner in which the forward purchasers unwind their hedge positions.

The price of our common stock may fluctuate significantly, and this may make it difficult for you to resell shares of common stock owned by you at times or at prices you find attractive.

The trading price of our common stock may fluctuate widely as a result of a number of factors, many of which are outside our control. In addition, the stock market is subject to fluctuations in the share prices and trading volumes that affect the market prices of the shares of many companies. These broad market fluctuations have adversely affected and may continue to adversely affect the market price of our common stock. Among the factors that could affect our stock price are:

actual or anticipated quarterly fluctuations in our operating results and financial condition;

changes in revenue or earnings estimates or publication of research reports and recommendations by financial analysts or actions taken by rating agencies with respect to our securities or those of other similar companies;

failure to meet analysts' revenue or earnings estimates;

speculation in the press or investment community generally or relating to our reputation or our industry;

strategic actions by us or our competitors, such as acquisitions or restructurings;

actions by institutional shareholders;

fluctuations in the stock price and operating results of our competitors;

future sales of our equity or equity-related securities;

Table of Contents

changes in the frequency or amount of dividends;

proposed or adopted regulatory changes or developments;

actual or anticipated changes in interest rates;

anticipated or pending investigations, proceedings, or litigation that involve or affect us;

domestic and international economic factors unrelated to our performance; or

general market conditions and, in particular, developments related to market conditions for our industry.

A significant decline in our stock price could result in substantial losses for individual shareholders and could lead to costly and disruptive securities litigation.

There may be future sales or other dilution of our equity, which may adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

Except as described under "Underwriting," we are not restricted from issuing additional shares of common stock, including any securities that are convertible into or exchangeable for, or that represent the right to receive, common stock. The issuance of any additional shares of common or convertible securities could be substantially dilutive to shareholders of our common stock. Moreover, to the extent that we issue restricted stock units, stock appreciation rights, options, or warrants to purchase our common stock in the future and those stock appreciation rights, options, or warrants are exercised or as the restricted stock units vest, our shareholders may experience further dilution. Holders of our shares of common stock have no preemptive rights that entitle holders to purchase their pro rata share of any offering of shares of any class or series and, therefore, such sales or offerings could result in increased dilution to our shareholders. The market price of our common stock could decline as a result of sales of shares of our common stock made after this offering or the perception that such sales could occur.

You may not receive dividends on the common stock.

Holders of our common stock are only entitled to receive such dividends as our board of directors may declare out of funds legally available for such payments. Although we have in the past declared cash dividends on our common stock, we are not required to do so and may reduce or eliminate our common stock dividend in the future. This could adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

The common stock is equity and is subordinate to our existing and future indebtedness and any preferred stock we may issue in the future.

Shares of the common stock are equity interests in Thermo Fisher and do not constitute indebtedness. As such, shares of the common stock will rank junior to all indebtedness and other non-equity claims on Thermo Fisher with respect to assets available to satisfy claims on Thermo Fisher, including in a liquidation of Thermo Fisher. Additionally, if we choose to issue preferred stock in the future, holders of our common stock may be subject to prior dividend and liquidation rights of any holders of our preferred stock or depositary shares representing such preferred stock then outstanding.

Anti-takeover provisions could adversely affect our stockholders.

Provisions of Delaware law and of our certificate of incorporation and bylaws could make it more difficult for a third party to acquire control of us or have the effect of discouraging a third party from attempting to acquire control of us. For example, we are subject to Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, which would make it more difficult for another party to acquire us without the approval of our board of directors.

Table of Contents

Additionally, our certificate of incorporation authorizes our board of directors to issue preferred stock, which could be issued as a defensive measure in response to a takeover proposal. These provisions could make it more difficult for a third party to acquire us even if an acquisition might be in the best interest of our stockholders.

Risks Relating to Our Business

We must develop new products, adapt to rapid and significant technological change and respond to introductions of new products by competitors to remain competitive.

Our growth strategy includes significant investment in and expenditures for product development. We sell our products in several industries that are characterized by rapid and significant technological changes, frequent new product and service introductions and enhancements and evolving industry standards. Competitive factors include technological innovation, price, service and delivery, breadth of product line, customer support, e-business capabilities and the ability to meet the special requirements of customers. Our competitors may adapt more quickly to new technologies and changes in customers' requirements than we can. Without the timely introduction of new products, services and enhancements, our products and services will likely become technologically obsolete over time, in which case our revenue and operating results would suffer..

Many of our existing products and those under development are technologically innovative and require significant planning, design, development and testing at the technological, product and manufacturing-process levels. Our customers use many of our products to develop, test and manufacture their own products. As a result, we must anticipate industry trends and develop products in advance of the commercialization of our customers' products. If we fail to adequately predict our customers' needs and future activities, we may invest heavily in research and development of products and services that do not lead to significant revenue.

It may be difficult for us to implement our strategies for improving internal growth.

Some of the markets in which we compete have been flat or declining over the past several years. To address this issue, we are pursuing a number of strategies to improve our internal growth, including:

strengthening our presence in selected geographic markets;

allocating research and development funding to products with higher growth prospects;

developing new applications for our technologies;

expanding our service offerings;

continuing key customer initiatives;

combining sales and marketing operations in appropriate markets to compete more effectively;

finding new markets for our products; and

continuing the development of commercial tools and infrastructure to increase and support cross-selling opportunities of products and services to take advantage of our depth in product offerings.

We may not be able to successfully implement these strategies, and these strategies may not result in the expected growth of our business.

Our business is affected by general economic conditions and related uncertainties affecting markets in which we operate.

Our business is affected by general economic conditions, both inside and outside the U.S. If the global economy and financial markets, or economic conditions in Europe, the U.S. or other key markets, are unstable, it could adversely affect the business, results of operations and financial condition of the company and its customers, distributors, and suppliers, having the effect of:

reduced demand for some of our products;

increased rate of order cancellations or delays;

S-17

Table of Contents

increased risk of excess and obsolete inventories;

increased pressure on the prices for our products and services; and

creating longer sales cycles and greater difficulty in collecting sales proceeds.

For example, recent developments in Europe have created uncertainty with respect to the ability of certain European countries to continue to service their sovereign debt obligations. This debt crisis and related European financial restructuring efforts may cause the value of the euro to deteriorate, reducing the purchasing power of our European customers and reducing our U.S. dollar revenues as translated from the euro. In addition, the European crisis could result in customers in Europe taking longer to pay for products they have purchased from us, or being unable to pay at all. The continued weakness in world economies makes the strength and timing of any economic recovery uncertain, and there can be no assurance that global economic conditions will not deteriorate further.

Demand for some of our products depends on capital spending policies of our customers and on government funding policies.

Our customers include pharmaceutical and chemical companies, laboratories, universities, healthcare providers, government agencies and public and private research institutions. Many factors, including public policy spending priorities, available resources and product and economic cycles, have a significant effect on the capital spending policies of these entities.

Spending by some of these customers fluctuates based on budget allocations and the timely passage of the annual federal budget. An impasse in federal government budget decisions could lead to substantial delays or reductions in federal spending. The U.S. Government has been unable to reach agreement on budget reduction measures required by the Budget Control Act of 2011. As a result, on March 1, 2013, an enforcement mechanism known as sequestration went into effect, which will trigger a total of \$1.2 trillion in spending reductions over the next decade, divided between domestic and defense spending. Unless Congress and the Administration take further action, government funding would be reduced for certain of our customers, including those who are dependent on funding from the National Institutes of Health, which would likely have a significant effect on these entities' spending policies. These policies in turn can have a significant effect on the demand for our products.

As a multinational corporation, we are exposed to fluctuations in currency exchange rates, which could adversely affect our cash flows and results of operations.

International revenues account for a substantial portion of our revenues, and we intend to continue expanding our presence in international markets. The exposure to fluctuations in currency exchange rates takes on different forms. International revenues are subject to the risk that fluctuations in exchange rates could adversely affect product demand and the profitability in U.S. dollars of products and services provided by us in international markets, where payment for our products and services is made in the local currency. As a multinational corporation, our businesses occasionally invoice third-party customers in currencies other than the one in which they primarily do business (the *functional currency*). Movements in the invoiced currency relative to the functional currency could adversely impact our cash flows and our results of operations. In addition, reported sales made in non-U.S. currencies by our international businesses, when translated into U.S. dollars for financial reporting purposes, fluctuate due to exchange rate movement. Should our international sales grow, exposure to fluctuations in currency exchange rates could have a larger effect on our financial results. In 2012, currency translation had an unfavorable effect of \$227 million on the revenues of our continuing operations due to the strengthening of the U.S. dollar relative to other currencies in which the company sells products and services, and in the first three months of 2013, currency translation had an unfavorable effect on revenues of our continuing operations of \$22 million.

Table of Contents

Healthcare reform legislation could adversely impact us.

The recently enacted Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act could have an adverse impact on us. Some of the potential consequences, such as a reduction in governmental support of healthcare services or adverse changes to the delivery or pricing of healthcare services or products or mandated benefits, may cause healthcare-industry participants to purchase fewer of our products and services or to reduce the prices they are willing to pay for our products or services.

Our inability to protect our intellectual property could have a material adverse effect on our business. In addition, third parties may claim that we infringe their intellectual property, and we could suffer significant litigation or licensing expense as a result.

We place considerable emphasis on obtaining patent and trade secret protection for significant new technologies, products and processes because of the length of time and expense associated with bringing new products through the development process and into the marketplace. Our success depends in part on our ability to develop patentable products and obtain and enforce patent protection for our products both in the United States and in other countries. We own numerous U.S. and foreign patents, and we intend to file additional applications, as appropriate, for patents covering our products. Patents may not be issued for any pending or future patent applications owned by or licensed to us, and the claims allowed under any issued patents may not be sufficiently broad to protect our technology. Any issued patents owned by or licensed to us may be challenged, invalidated or circumvented, and the rights under these patents may not provide us with competitive advantages. In addition, competitors may design around our technology or develop competing technologies. Intellectual property rights may also be unavailable or limited in some foreign countries, which could make it easier for competitors to capture increased market position. We could incur substantial costs to defend ourselves in suits brought against us or in suits in which we may assert our patent rights against others. An unfavorable outcome of any such litigation could materially adversely affect our business and results of operations.

We also rely on trade secrets and proprietary know-how with which we seek to protect our products, in part, by confidentiality agreements with our collaborators, employees and consultants. These agreements may be breached and we may not have adequate remedies for any breach. In addition, our trade secrets may otherwise become known or be independently developed by our competitors.

Third parties may assert claims against us to the effect that we are infringing on their intellectual property rights. We could incur substantial costs and diversion of management resources in defending these claims, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, parties making these claims could secure a judgment awarding substantial damages, as well as injunctive or other equitable relief, which could effectively block our ability to make, use, sell, distribute, or market our products and services in the United States or abroad. In the event that a claim relating to intellectual property is asserted against us, or third parties not affiliated with us hold pending or issued patents that relate to our products or technology, we may seek licenses to such intellectual property or challenge those patents. However, we may be unable to obtain these licenses on commercially reasonable terms, if at all, and our challenge of the patents may be unsuccessful. Our failure to obtain the necessary licenses or other rights could prevent the sale, manufacture, or distribution of our products and, therefore, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Changes in governmental regulations may reduce demand for our products or increase our expenses.

We compete in many markets in which we and our customers must comply with federal, state, local and international regulations, such as environmental, health and safety and food and drug regulations. We develop, configure and market our products to meet customer needs created by those regulations. Any significant change in regulations could reduce demand for our products or increase our expenses. For example, many of our instruments are marketed to the pharmaceutical industry for use in discovering and developing drugs. Changes in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's regulation of the drug discovery and development process could have an adverse effect on the demand for these products.

Table of Contents

If our security products fail to detect explosives or radiation, we could be exposed to product liability and related claims for which we may not have adequate insurance coverage.

Products currently or previously sold by our environmental and process instruments businesses include fixed and portable instruments used for chemical, radiation and trace explosives detection. These products are used in airports, embassies, cargo facilities, border crossings and other high-threat facilities for the detection and prevention of terrorist acts. If any of these products were to malfunction, it is possible that explosive or radioactive material could fail to be detected by our product, which could lead to product liability claims. There are also many other factors beyond our control that could lead to liability claims, such as the reliability and competence of the customers' operators and the training of such operators. Any such product liability claims brought against us could be significant and any adverse determination may result in liabilities in excess of our insurance coverage. Although we carry product liability insurance, we cannot be certain that our current insurance will be sufficient to cover these claims or that it can be maintained on acceptable terms, if at all.

Our inability to complete pending acquisitions or to successfully integrate any new or previous acquisitions could have a material adverse effect on our business.

Our business strategy includes the acquisition of technologies and businesses that complement or augment our existing products and services. On April 14, 2013, we entered into an agreement to acquire Life Technologies. Certain acquisitions, including the Life Technologies Acquisition, may be difficult to complete for a number of reasons, including the need for antitrust and/or other regulatory approvals. Any acquisition we may complete may be made at a substantial premium over the fair value of the net identifiable assets of the acquired company. Further, we may not be able to integrate acquired businesses successfully into our existing businesses, make such businesses profitable, or realize anticipated cost savings or synergies, if any, from these acquisitions, which could adversely affect our business.

Moreover, we have acquired many companies and businesses. As a result of these acquisitions, we recorded significant goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets (tradenames) on our balance sheet, which amount to approximately \$12.44 billion and \$1.34 billion, respectively, as of March 30, 2013. We assess the realizability of goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets annually as well as whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that these assets may be impaired. These events or circumstances would generally include operating losses or a significant decline in earnings associated with the acquired business or asset. Our ability to realize the value of the goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets will depend on the future cash flows of these businesses. These cash flows in turn depend in part on how well we have integrated these businesses. If we are not able to realize the value of the goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets, we may be required to incur material charges relating to the impairment of those assets.

We are subject to laws and regulations governing government contracts, and failure to address these laws and regulations or comply with government contracts could harm our business by leading to a reduction in revenue associated with these customers.

We have agreements relating to the sale of our products to government entities and, as a result, we are subject to various statutes and regulations that apply to companies doing business with the government. The laws governing government contracts differ from the laws governing private contracts and government contracts may contain pricing terms and conditions that are not applicable to private contracts. We are also subject to investigation for compliance with the regulations governing government contracts. A failure to comply with these regulations could result in suspension of these contracts, criminal, civil and administrative penalties or debarment.

Because we compete directly with certain of our larger customers and product suppliers, our results of operations could be adversely affected in the short term if these customers or suppliers abruptly discontinue or significantly modify their relationship with us.

Our largest customer in the laboratory products business and our largest customer in the diagnostics business are also significant competitors. Our business may be harmed in the short term if our competitive

Table of Contents

relationship in the marketplace with these customers results in a discontinuation of their purchases from us. In addition, we manufacture products that compete directly with products that we source from third-party suppliers. We also source competitive products from multiple suppliers. Our business could be adversely affected in the short term if any of our large third-party suppliers abruptly discontinues selling products to us.

Because we rely heavily on third-party package-delivery services, a significant disruption in these services or significant increases in prices may disrupt our ability to ship products, increase our costs and lower our profitability.

We ship a significant portion of our products to our customers through independent package delivery companies, such as Federal Express in the U.S. and DHL in Europe. We also maintain a small fleet of vehicles dedicated to the delivery of our products and ship our products through other carriers, including national and regional trucking firms, overnight carrier services and the U.S. Postal Service. If one of these third-party package-delivery provider experiences a major work stoppage, preventing our products from being delivered in a timely fashion or causing us to incur additional shipping costs we could not pass on to our customers, our costs could increase and our relationships with certain of our customers could be adversely affected. In addition, if one of these third-party package-delivery providers increase prices, and we are not able to find comparable alternatives or make adjustments in our delivery network, our profitability could be adversely affected.

We are required to comply with a wide variety of laws and regulations, and are subject to regulation by various federal, state and foreign agencies.

For example, some of our operations are subject to regulation by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and similar international agencies. These regulations govern a wide variety of product activities, from design and development to labeling, manufacturing, promotion, sales and distribution. If we fail to comply with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's regulations or those of similar international agencies, we may have to recall products and/or cease their manufacture and distribution, which would increase our costs and reduce our revenues.

We are also subject to a variety of federal, state, local and international laws and regulations that govern, among other things, the importation and exportation of products, the handling, transportation and manufacture of substances that could be classified as hazardous, and our business practices in the U.S. and abroad such as anti-corruption and anti-competition laws. A failure to comply with these laws and regulations could result in criminal, civil and administrative penalties.

New regulations related to conflict minerals may cause us to incur additional expenses and could limit the supply and increase the cost of certain metals used in manufacturing our products.

On August 22, 2012, the SEC adopted a new rule requiring disclosures by public companies of specified minerals, known as conflict minerals, that are necessary to the functionality or production of products manufactured or contracted to be manufactured. The new rule, which is effective for 2013 and requires a disclosure report to be filed by May 31, 2014, will require companies to perform due diligence, disclose and report whether or not such minerals originate from the Democratic Republic of Congo or an adjoining country. The new rule could affect sourcing at competitive prices and availability in sufficient quantities of certain minerals used in the manufacture of our products, including tantalum, tin, gold and tungsten. The number of suppliers who provide conflict-free minerals may be limited. In addition, there may be material costs associated with complying with the disclosure requirements, such as costs related to determining the source of certain minerals used in our products, as well as costs of possible changes to products, processes, or sources of supply as a consequence of such verification activities. As our supply chain is complex, we may not be able to sufficiently verify the origins of the relevant minerals used in our products through the due diligence procedures that we implement, which may harm our reputation. In addition, we may encounter challenges to satisfy those customers who require that all of the components of our products be certified as conflict-free, which could place us at a competitive disadvantage if we are unable to do so.

Table of Contents

Our business could be adversely affected by disruptions at our sites.

We rely upon our manufacturing operations to produce many of the products we sell and our warehouse facilities to store products, pending sale. Any significant disruption of those operations for any reason, such as strikes or other labor unrest, power interruptions, fire, earthquakes, or other events beyond our control could adversely affect our sales and customer relationships and therefore adversely affect our business. Although most of our raw materials are available from a number of potential suppliers, our operations also depend upon our ability to obtain raw materials at reasonable prices. If we are unable to obtain the materials we need at a reasonable price, we may not be able to produce certain of our products or we may not be able to produce certain of these products at a marketable price, which could have an adverse effect on our results of operations.

Fluctuations in our effective tax rate may adversely affect our results of operations and cash flows.

As a global company, we are subject to taxation in numerous countries, states and other jurisdictions. In preparing our financial statements, we record the amount of tax that is payable in each of the countries, states and other jurisdictions in which we operate. Our future effective tax rate, however, may be lower or higher than experienced in the past due to numerous factors, including a change in the mix of our profitability from country to country, changes in accounting for income taxes and recently enacted and future changes in tax laws in jurisdictions in which we operate. Any of these factors could cause us to experience an effective tax rate significantly different from previous periods or our current expectations, which could have an adverse effect on our business, results of operations and cash flows.

We may incur unexpected costs from increases in fuel and raw material prices, which could reduce our earnings and cash flow.

Our primary commodity exposures are for fuel, petroleum-based resins and steel. While we may seek to minimize the impact of price increases through higher prices to customers and various cost-saving measures, our earnings and cash flows could be adversely affected in the event these measures are insufficient to cover our costs.

Unforeseen problems with the implementation and maintenance of our information systems could have an adverse effect on our operations.

As a part of our ongoing effort to upgrade our current information systems, we are implementing new enterprise resource planning software and other software applications to manage certain of our business operations. As we implement and add functionality, problems could arise that we have not foreseen. Such problems could adversely impact our ability to provide quotes, take customer orders and otherwise run our business in a timely manner. In addition, if our new systems fail to provide accurate and increased visibility into pricing and cost structures, it may be difficult to improve or maximize our profit margins. As a result, our results of operations and cash flows could be adversely affected.

We also rely on our technology infrastructure, among other functions, to interact with suppliers, sell our products and services, fulfill orders and bill, collect and make payments, ship products, provide services and support to customers, track customers, fulfill contractual obligations and otherwise conduct business. Our systems may be vulnerable to damage or interruption from natural disasters, power loss, telecommunication failures, terrorist attacks, computer viruses, computer denial-of-service attacks, unauthorized access to customer or employee data or company trade secrets, and other attempts to harm our systems. When we upgrade or change systems, we may suffer interruptions in service, loss of data or reduced functionality. Certain of our systems are not redundant, and our disaster recovery planning is not sufficient for every eventuality. Despite any precautions we may take, such problems could result in, among other consequences, interruptions in our services, which could harm our reputation and financial results.

Table of Contents

Our debt may restrict our investment opportunities or limit our activities.

As of March 30, 2013, we had approximately \$7.12 billion in outstanding indebtedness. In addition, we have a revolving credit facility that provides for up to \$1.0 billion of unsecured multi-currency revolving credit with the ability to request an additional \$500 million. We may also obtain additional long-term debt and lines of credit to meet future financing needs, which would have the effect of increasing our total leverage.

Our leverage could have negative consequences, including increasing our vulnerability to adverse economic and industry conditions, limiting our ability to obtain additional financing and limiting our ability to acquire new products and technologies through strategic acquisitions.

Our ability to make scheduled payments, refinance our obligations or obtain additional financing will depend on our future operating performance and on economic, financial, competitive and other factors beyond our control. Our business may not generate sufficient cash flow to meet our obligations. If we are unable to service our debt, refinance our existing debt or obtain additional financing, we may be forced to delay strategic acquisitions, capital expenditures or research and development expenditures. Recent disruptions in the financial markets, including the bankruptcy or restructuring of a number of financial institutions and reduced lending activity, may adversely affect the availability, terms and cost of credit in the future. We cannot be sure that initiatives in response to the disruptions in the financial markets will continue to stabilize the markets in general or increase liquidity and the availability of credit to us.

Additionally, the agreements governing our debt require that we maintain certain financial ratios, and contain affirmative and negative covenants that restrict our activities by, among other limitations, limiting our ability to incur additional indebtedness, make investments, create liens, sell assets and enter into transactions with affiliates. The covenants in our revolving credit facilities include a total debt-to-EBITDA ratio. Specifically, the company has agreed that, so long as any lender has any commitment under either facility, or any loan or other obligation is outstanding under either facility, or any letter of credit is outstanding under the facility that supports letters of credit, it will not permit (as the following terms are defined in the facility) the Consolidated Leverage Ratio (the ratio of consolidated Indebtedness to Consolidated EBITDA) as at the last day of any fiscal quarter to be greater than 3.5 to 1.0.

Our ability to comply with these financial restrictions and covenants is dependent on our future performance, which is subject to prevailing economic conditions and other factors, including factors that are beyond our control such as foreign exchange rates and interest rates. Our failure to comply with any of these restrictions or covenants may result in an event of default under the applicable debt instrument, which could permit acceleration of the debt under that instrument and require us to prepay that debt before its scheduled due date. Also, an acceleration of the debt under certain of our debt instruments would trigger an event of default under other of our debt instruments.

If we consummate the Life Technologies Acquisition, in order to fund the acquisition we will be required to incur a substantial amount of additional indebtedness and issue equity or equity-linked securities, which could have an adverse effect on our financial health and make it more difficult for us to obtain additional financing in the future.

We currently expect to finance the \$13.6 billion purchase price for the Life Technologies Acquisition with up to \$3.25 billion of equity financing, of which this offering is a part and with respect to which we anticipate raising up to a maximum of an additional \$1.05 billion of mandatorily convertible debt, preference shares or other equity-linked securities, with the remaining portion of the purchase price to be financed with debt and cash on hand. Incurrence of additional debt may have an adverse effect on our financial condition and may limit our ability to obtain financing in the future. Furthermore, the issuance of equity and equity-linked securities may result in substantial dilution to our existing stockholders and may have a material adverse effect on the market price of our common stock.

In order to partially finance the Life Technologies Acquisition, we have entered into the Commitment Letter. On May 31, 2013, pursuant to the Commitment Letter, we entered into the Bridge Facility. The Bridge Facility will have generally the same representations and warranties, covenants (including financial covenants)

Table of Contents

and events of default as our existing 2012 credit agreement, with some additional modifications to reflect the proposed Life Technologies Acquisition (including our increased leverage, in the case of the consolidated leverage ratio covenant) and an additional financial covenant consisting of a minimum interest coverage ratio of 3.0 to 1.0. The aggregate commitments in respect of the Bridge Facility or under the loan documents pursuant to the Bridge Facility shall be permanently reduced, and loans under the Bridge Facility shall be prepaid, in each case, on a dollar-for-dollar basis, by any proceeds actually received by us from this offering.

On May 31, 2013, we entered into the Term Credit Facility. The Term Credit Facility provides for up to \$5.0 billion of senior unsecured term loans, to be used to refinance indebtedness outstanding under the Bridge Facility or, if the Bridge Facility has not been funded, to fund, in part, the Life Technologies Acquisition or the transactions contemplated thereby.

Additionally, if we fail to realize the expected benefits from the Life Technologies Acquisition or if the financial performance of Life Technologies does not meet our current expectations, it may make it more difficult for us to service our debt and our results of operations may fail to meet expectations. We may have to obtain financing under the Bridge Facility, if we cannot secure the permanent financing we currently expect to obtain. The interest rates and other financial terms for debt incurred pursuant to the Bridge Facility or to replace or refinance any debt incurred under it would generally be less favorable than the permanent financing arrangements that we contemplate. In addition, the Bridge Facility imposes various covenants and restrictions upon us that would apply in the event we obtained financing under it.

Regulatory approvals necessary for our acquisition of Life Technologies may not be received, may take longer than expected or may impose conditions that are not presently anticipated or that could have an adverse effect on the combined company following the transaction.

Before our acquisition of Life Technologies may be completed, we must obtain certain required regulatory approvals, waivers or consents. These regulators may impose conditions on the completion of the transaction or require changes to the terms of the transaction. Such conditions or changes could have the effect of delaying or preventing completion of the transaction, causing the company to incur additional costs or limiting the revenues of the combined company following the transaction, any of which might have an adverse effect on the combined company following the transaction.

For example, to complete the Life Technologies Acquisition, we need to receive certain antitrust approvals. We anticipate receiving on June 7, 2013, a request for additional information and documentary material, often referred to as a "Second Request", from the FTC in connection with the FTC's Hart-Scott-Rodino regulatory review of the Life Technologies Acquisition.

Combining Life Technologies with Thermo Fisher may be more difficult, costly or time consuming than expected and the anticipated benefits and cost savings of the transaction may not be fully realized.

The success of the Life Technologies Acquisition, including the realization of anticipated benefits and cost savings, will depend, in part, on Thermo Fisher's ability to successfully combine the businesses of Thermo Fisher and Life Technologies. The integration may be more difficult, costly or time consuming than expected. It is possible that the integration process could result in the loss of key employees or the disruption of each company's ongoing businesses or that the alignment of standards, controls, procedures and policies may adversely affect the combined company's ability to maintain relationships with clients, customers, suppliers and employees or to fully achieve the anticipated benefits and cost savings of the transaction. The loss of key employees could adversely affect Thermo Fisher's ability to successfully conduct its business in the markets in which Life Technologies now operates, which could have an adverse effect on Thermo Fisher's financial results and the value of its common stock. Other potential difficulties of combining the business of Thermo Fisher and Life Technologies include unanticipated issues in integrating manufacturing, logistics, information communications and other systems.

If Thermo Fisher experiences difficulties with the integration process, the anticipated benefits of the transaction may not be realized fully or at all, or may take longer to realize than expected. Integration efforts

Table of Contents

between the two companies may also divert management attention and resources. These integration matters could have an adverse effect on each of Thermo Fisher and Life Technologies during this transition period and for an undetermined period after completion of the transaction on the combined company.

Thermo Fisher and Life Technologies will be subject to business uncertainties while the transaction is pending.

Uncertainty about the effect of the Life Technologies Acquisition on employees, customers and suppliers may have an adverse effect on Thermo Fisher and/or Life Technologies prior to closing or the combined company after completion of the transaction. These uncertainties may impair Thermo Fisher's or Life Technologies' ability to attract, retain and motivate key personnel until the transaction is completed, and could cause customers, suppliers and others that deal with Thermo Fisher or Life Technologies to seek to change existing business relationships with Thermo Fisher or Life Technologies. If key employees depart because of issues relating to the uncertainty and difficulty of integration or a desire not to remain with Thermo Fisher or Life Technologies, Thermo Fisher's business or the business of the combined company after completion of the transaction could be harmed.

Termination of the merger agreement with Life Technologies could negatively impact us.

If the Merger Agreement is terminated, there may be various consequences. For example, Thermo Fisher's businesses may have been impacted adversely by the failure to pursue other beneficial opportunities due to management's focus on the Life Technologies Acquisition, without realizing any of the anticipated benefits of completing the transaction. Additionally, if the Merger Agreement is terminated, the market price of Thermo Fisher's common stock could decline to the extent that the current market price reflects an assumption that the transaction will be completed. In addition, we have incurred and will incur substantial expenses in connection with the negotiation and completion of the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement with Life Technologies. If the Life Technologies Acquisition is not completed, we would have recognized these expenses without realizing the expected benefits of the transaction.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of the shares of common stock offered by the forward sellers pursuant to this prospectus supplement, unless (i) an event occurs that requires us to sell our common stock to the underwriters in lieu of the forward sellers selling our common stock to the underwriters, or (ii) the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option and we elect to sell the additional shares of our common stock covered by such option to the underwriters rather than requiring the forward sellers to borrow and sell such additional shares to the underwriters.

Depending on the price of our common stock at the time of settlement and the relevant settlement method, we may receive proceeds from the sale of common stock upon settlement of the forward sale agreements, which settlement must occur within approximately 14 months of the date of this prospectus supplement. At an initial forward sale price of \$ per share, we expect to receive net proceeds of \$ (or \$ if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option in full and we elect for the forward sellers to sell the option shares to the underwriters), subject to the price adjustment and other provisions of the forward sale agreements, in the event of full physical settlement of the forward sale agreements. For purposes of calculating the proceeds to us upon settlement of the forward sale agreements, we have assumed that the forward sale agreements are fully physically settled based upon the initial forward sale price of \$ (which is the public offering price of our common stock after deducting the applicable underwriting discount and commissions shown on the cover of this prospectus supplement) on the effective date of the forward sale agreements, which will be , 2013, and that the underwriters have not exercised their option to purchase up to an additional shares to cover over-allotments. The actual proceeds that we receive will be determined upon final settlement of the forward sale agreements. Unless the federal funds rate increases substantially prior to the settlement of the forward sale agreements, we expect to receive less than the initial forward sale price per share upon physical settlement of the forward sale agreements. See Underwriting Forward sale agreements for a description of the forward sale agreements.

We intend to use any net proceeds that we receive upon settlement of the forward sale agreements, or from any sales of shares of our common stock to the underwriters in the circumstances described under Risk factors Risks Relating to the Offering and Underwriting Forward sale agreements, to fund a portion of the \$13.6 billion in cash consideration payable in connection with the Life Technologies Acquisition and to pay certain costs associated with the Life Technologies Acquisition. This offering is not conditioned on the closing of the Life Technologies Acquisition, and we cannot assure you that the Life Technologies Acquisition will be completed.

If the Life Technologies Acquisition is not completed we intend to use any net proceeds that we receive upon settlement of the forward sale agreements, or from any sales of shares of our common stock to the underwriters in the circumstances described under Risk factors Risks Relating to the Offering and Underwriting Forward sale agreements, for general corporate purposes, which may include, without limitation, repayment, redemption or refinancing of indebtedness, capital expenditures, funding of possible acquisitions, working capital, satisfaction of other obligations or the repurchase of our outstanding equity securities.

We expect to pay the remaining amount of the purchase price and related fees and expenses from up to a maximum of an additional \$1.05 billion of mandatorily convertible debt, preference shares or other equity-linked securities, from debt issuances, including under the new Term Credit Facility, and from cash on hand.

Table of Contents**CAPITALIZATION**

The following table presents our cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments and capitalization as of March 30, 2013 on an actual basis and on an adjusted basis to give effect to the sale of the common stock offered hereby and receipt of proceeds upon full physical settlement of the forward purchase agreements after deducting the underwriting discounts and estimated offering expenses.

You should read this table in conjunction with the information contained in our Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and our consolidated financial statements and related notes in Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012 as updated by the Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 3, 2013 and the First Quarter 2013 Form 10-Q, which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

The capitalization table below is not necessarily indicative of our future capitalization or financial condition.

	As of March 30, 2013	
	Actual	As Adjusted (1)
	(in millions) (unaudited)	
Cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments	\$ 1,008.3	\$
Debt included in current liabilities:		
Short-term obligations:	\$ 90.0	\$
Current maturities of long-term debt:	304.0	
	394.0	
Debt included in long-term liabilities:		
Long-term debt, excluding current maturities	6,724.4	
Total debt	7,118.4	
Total stockholders' equity	15,599.5	
Total capitalization	\$ 22,717.9	\$

(1) Assumes physical settlement of the forward sale agreements as described above in this Capitalization section and that the underwriters do not exercise their option to purchase the option shares. Although we expect to settle entirely by the delivery of shares of our common stock, we may, subject to certain conditions, elect cash or net share settlement for all or a portion of our obligations if we conclude that it is in our interest to do so. See Underwriting Forward sale agreements.

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

Our common stock is publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol TMO. The table below sets forth for the periods indicated the quarterly high and low sales prices for our common stock on the New York Stock Exchange and the amount of dividends per share declared on our common stock.

	High	Low	Dividends
2011			
First Quarter	\$ 58.16	\$ 52.41	None
Second Quarter	\$ 65.86	\$ 54.12	None
Third Quarter	\$ 65.68	\$ 48.78	None
Fourth Quarter	\$ 55.26	\$ 43.06	None
2012			
First Quarter	\$ 58.37	\$ 45.67	\$0.13
Second Quarter	\$ 56.91	\$ 48.14	\$0.13
Third Quarter	\$ 61.00	\$ 49.63	\$0.13
Fourth Quarter	\$ 65.54	\$ 57.21	\$0.15
2013			
First Quarter	\$ 78.04	\$ 64.54	\$0.15
Second Quarter (through June 4, 2013)	\$ 89.50	\$ 75.27	\$0.15

Table of Contents

MATERIAL U.S. TAX CONSIDERATIONS FOR NON-U.S. HOLDERS OF COMMON STOCK

The following is a general discussion of material U.S. federal income and estate tax considerations relating to ownership and disposition of our common stock by a non-U.S. holder. For purposes of this discussion, the term non-U.S. holder means a beneficial owner of our common stock that is not, for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

an individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States;

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

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

a trust, if a U.S. court is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of the trust and one or more U.S. persons have authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or if the trust has a valid election in effect to be treated as a U.S. person under applicable U.S. Treasury Regulations.

An individual may be treated as a resident instead of a nonresident of the United States in any calendar year for U.S. federal income tax purposes if the individual was present in the United States for at least 31 days in that calendar year and for an aggregate of at least 183 days during the three-year period ending with the current calendar year. For purposes of this calculation, all of the days present in the current year, one-third of the days present in the immediately preceding year, and one-sixth of the days present in the second preceding year are counted. Residents of the United States are taxed for U.S. federal income tax purposes as if they were U.S. citizens.

This discussion is based on current provisions of the Code, existing and proposed U.S. Treasury Regulations promulgated thereunder, current administrative rulings, and judicial decisions, all publicly available and as in effect as of the date of this prospectus supplement and all of which are subject to change or to differing interpretation, possibly with retroactive effect. Any change or differing interpretation could alter the tax consequences to non-U.S. holders described in this prospectus. In addition, the Internal Revenue Service (the IRS) could challenge one or more of the tax consequences described in this prospectus and we have not obtained nor do we intend to obtain an opinion of counsel with respect to the U.S. federal income or estate tax consequences to a non-U.S. holder of acquiring, holding, and disposing of our common stock.

This discussion addresses only non-U.S. holders that hold shares of our common stock as a capital asset (generally, property held for investment). This discussion does not address all aspects of U.S. federal income and estate taxation that may be relevant to a particular non-U.S. holder in light of that non-U.S. holder's individual circumstances nor does it address any aspects of U.S. state, local, or non-U.S. taxes. This discussion also does not consider any specific facts or circumstances that may apply to a non-U.S. holder and does not address the special tax rules applicable to particular non-U.S. holders, such as:

insurance companies;

tax-exempt organizations;

financial institutions;

brokers or dealers in securities;

regulated investment companies;

S-29

Table of Contents

pension plans;

controlled foreign corporations;

passive foreign investment companies;

owners that hold our common stock as part of a straddle, hedge, conversion transaction, synthetic security, or other integrated investment; and

certain U.S. expatriates.

In addition, this discussion does not address the tax treatment of partnerships or other entities that are pass-through entities for U.S. federal income tax purposes persons who hold their common stock through partnerships or other entities that are pass-through entities for U.S. federal income tax purposes. A partner in a partnership or other pass-through entity that will hold our common stock should consult his, her, or its own tax advisor regarding the tax consequences of the purchase, ownership, and disposition of our common stock through a partnership or other pass-through entity, as applicable.

Prospective investors should consult their own tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal, state, local, and non-U.S. income and other tax considerations of acquiring, holding, and disposing of our common stock.

Dividends

Distributions on our common stock generally will constitute dividends for U.S. federal income tax purposes to the extent paid from our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles. If a distribution exceeds our current and accumulated earnings and profits, the excess will be treated as a tax-free return of the non-U.S. holder's investment, up to such holder's tax basis in the common stock. Any remaining excess will be treated as capital gain, subject to the tax treatment described below under the heading **Gain on Disposition of Common Stock**.

Dividends paid to a non-U.S. holder generally will be subject to withholding of U.S. federal income tax at a 30% rate or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty between the United States and such holder's country of residence. A non-U.S. holder of our common stock who claims the benefit of an applicable income tax treaty between the United States and such holder's country of residence generally will be required to provide a properly executed IRS Form W-8BEN (or successor form) and satisfy applicable certification and other requirements. A non-U.S. holder that is eligible for a reduced rate of U.S. withholding tax under an income tax treaty may obtain a refund or credit of any excess amounts withheld by timely filing an appropriate claim with the IRS. Non-U.S. holders are urged to consult their own tax advisors regarding their entitlement to benefits under a relevant income tax treaty.

Dividends that are treated as effectively connected with a trade or business conducted by a non-U.S. holder within the United States and, if an applicable income tax treaty so provides, that are attributable to a permanent establishment or a fixed base maintained by the non-U.S. holder within the United States are generally exempt from the 30% withholding tax described above if the non-U.S. holder satisfies applicable certification and disclosure requirements. However, such U.S. effectively connected income is taxed on a net income basis at the same graduated U.S. federal income tax rates applicable to U.S. persons (as defined in the Code). Any U.S. effectively connected income received by a non-U.S. holder that is a corporation may also, under certain circumstances, 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 between the United States and such holder's country of residence.

Table of Contents

Gain on Disposition of Common Stock

A non-U.S. holder generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on gain recognized on a disposition of our common stock unless:

the gain is effectively connected with the non-U.S. holder's conduct of a trade or business in the United States and, if an applicable income tax treaty so provides, the gain is attributable to a permanent establishment or fixed base maintained by the non-U.S. holder in the United States; in these cases, the non-U.S. holder will be taxed on a net income basis at the regular graduated rates and in the manner applicable to U.S. persons, and if the non-U.S. holder is a foreign corporation, an additional branch profits tax at a 30% rate, or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty, may also apply;

the non-U.S. holder is a nonresident alien present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of the disposition and certain other requirements are met, in which case the non-U.S. holder will be subject to a 30% tax (or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty) on the net gain derived from the disposition, which may be offset by U.S.-source capital losses of the non-U.S. holder, if any; or

we are, or have been at any time during the five-year period preceding such disposition (or the non-U.S. holder's holding period, if shorter), a U.S. real property holding corporation, unless our common stock is regularly traded on an established securities market and the non-U.S. holder held no more than 5% of our outstanding common stock, directly or indirectly, during the shorter of the five year period ending on the date of the disposition or the period that the non-U.S. holder held our common stock. Generally, a corporation is a U.S. real property holding corporation if the fair market value of its U.S. real property interests equals or exceeds 50% of the sum of the fair market value of its worldwide real property interests plus its other assets used or held for use in a trade or business. Although there can be no assurance, we believe that we are not currently, and we do not anticipate becoming, a U.S. real property holding corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes. No assurance can be provided that our common stock will be regularly traded on an established securities market for purposes of the rule described above.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

We must report annually to the IRS and to each non-U.S. holder the gross amount of the distributions on our common stock paid to such holder and the tax withheld, if any, with respect to such distributions. Non-U.S. holders may have to comply with specific certification procedures to establish that the holder is not a U.S. person (as defined in the Code) in order to avoid backup withholding at the applicable rate, currently 28%, with respect to dividends on our common stock. Generally, a non-U.S. holder will comply with such procedures if it provides a properly executed IRS Form W-8BEN (or other applicable Form W-8) or otherwise meets documentary evidence requirements for establishing that it is a non-U.S. holder, or otherwise establishes an exemption. Dividends paid to non-U.S. holders subject to withholding of U.S. federal income tax, as described above under the heading "Dividends," will generally be exempt from U.S. backup withholding.

Information reporting and backup withholding generally will apply to the proceeds of a disposition of our common stock by a non-U.S. holder effected by or through the U.S. office of any broker, U.S. or foreign, unless the holder certifies its status as a non-U.S. holder and satisfies certain other requirements, or otherwise establishes an exemption. Generally, information reporting and backup withholding will not apply to a payment of disposition proceeds to a non-U.S. holder where the transaction is effected outside the United States through a non-U.S. office of a broker. However, for information reporting purposes, dispositions effected through a non-U.S. office of a broker with substantial U.S. ownership or operations generally will be treated in a manner similar to dispositions effected through a U.S. office of a broker. Non-U.S. holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the application of the information reporting and backup withholding rules to them.

Table of Contents

Copies of information returns may be made available to the tax authorities of the country in which the non-U.S. holder resides or is incorporated under the provisions of a specific treaty or agreement.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Rather, any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules from a payment to a non-U.S. holder can be refunded or credited against the non-U.S. holder's U.S. federal income tax liability, if any, provided that an appropriate claim is timely filed with the IRS.

Legislation Relating to Foreign Accounts

The Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act, or FATCA, was enacted in March 2010. Generally, FATCA imposes a 30% withholding tax on dividends on, and gross proceeds from the sale or other disposition of, our common stock if paid to a foreign entity unless (i) if the foreign entity is a foreign financial institution, the foreign entity undertakes certain due diligence, reporting, withholding, and certification obligations, (ii) if the foreign entity is not a foreign financial institution, the foreign entity identifies certain of its U.S. investors, or (iii) the foreign entity is otherwise excepted under FATCA.

Under final regulations issued by the U.S. Department of the Treasury on January 17, 2013, withholding under FATCA will only apply (1) to payments of dividends on our common stock made after December 31, 2013 and (2) to payments of gross proceeds from a sale or other disposition of our common stock made after December 31, 2016. If withholding under FATCA is required on any payment related to our common stock, investors not otherwise subject to withholding (or that otherwise would be entitled to a reduced rate of withholding) on such payment may be required to seek a refund or credit from the IRS. Non-U.S. holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the possible implications of FATCA on their investment in our common stock.

Federal Estate Tax

Common stock owned or treated as owned by an individual who is a non-U.S. holder (as specially defined for U.S. federal estate tax purposes) at the time of death will be included in the individual's gross estate for U.S. federal estate tax purposes and, therefore, may be subject to U.S. federal estate tax, unless an applicable estate tax or other treaty provides otherwise.

The preceding discussion of material U.S. federal tax considerations is for general information only. It is not tax advice. Prospective investors should consult their own tax advisors regarding the particular U.S. federal, state, local, and non-U.S. tax consequences of purchasing, holding, and disposing of our common stock, including the consequences of any proposed changes in applicable laws.

Table of Contents**UNDERWRITING**

In this offering, J.P. Morgan Securities LLC and Barclays Capital Inc., each as agent for an affiliate of its respective affiliated forward purchaser, and whom we refer to collectively in such agency capacity as the forward sellers, are, at our request, borrowing and offering an aggregate of _____ shares of our common stock in connection with the execution of forward sale agreements between us and an affiliate of J.P. Morgan Securities LLC and between us and an affiliate of Barclays Capital Inc., which affiliates we refer to as the forward purchasers.

J.P. Morgan Securities LLC and Barclays Capital Inc. are acting as joint book running managers of the offering and representatives of the underwriters. Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated is acting as book running manager of the offering. We have entered into an underwriting agreement with the underwriters and the forward sellers. Subject to the terms and conditions of the underwriting agreement, the forward sellers have agreed to sell to the underwriters, and each underwriter has severally agreed to purchase from the forward sellers, at the public offering price less the underwriting discounts and commissions set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement, the number of shares of common stock listed next to its name in the following table:

Name	Number of shares
J.P. Morgan Securities LLC	
Barclays Capital Inc.	
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated	
Total	

The underwriting agreement provides that the obligations of the underwriters are subject to certain conditions precedent, including the absence of any material adverse change in our business and the receipt of certain certificates, opinions and letters from us, our counsel and the independent auditors. The underwriters are committed to purchase all the shares of common stock to be offered pursuant to the underwriting agreement if they purchase any shares. The underwriting agreement also provides that if an underwriter defaults, the purchase commitments of non-defaulting underwriters may also be increased or the offering may be terminated.

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

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

Forward sale agreements

We expect to enter into forward sale agreements on the date of this prospectus supplement with the forward purchasers relating to an aggregate of _____ shares of our common stock. In connection with the execution of the forward sale agreements, and at our request, the forward sellers intend to borrow from third parties and sell in this offering an aggregate of _____ shares of our common stock.

If the forward sellers are unable to borrow and deliver for sale on the anticipated closing date such number of shares of our common stock, or if the forward purchasers determine, in their commercially reasonable judgment, that it is either impracticable to do so or that the forward sellers are unable to borrow, at a stock loan rate not greater than a specified amount, and deliver for sale on the anticipated closing date such number of shares of our common stock, then the relevant forward sale agreement will be terminated in its entirety. If a forward seller is unable to borrow and deliver for sale on the anticipated closing date _____ shares of our common stock, or if the related forward purchaser determines, in its commercially reasonable judgment, that it is either impracticable to do so or that such forward seller is unable to borrow, at a stock loan rate not greater than a specified amount, and deliver for sale on the anticipated closing date _____ shares of our common stock, then the

Table of Contents

number of shares of our common stock to which the relevant forward sale agreement relates will be reduced to the number that such forward seller can so borrow and deliver. In the event that the number of shares to which a forward sale agreement relates is so reduced, the commitments of the underwriters to purchase shares of our common stock from the relevant forward seller and such forward seller's obligation to borrow such shares for delivery and sale to the underwriters, as described above, will be replaced with the commitments to purchase from us and our corresponding obligation to issue directly to the underwriters all or such portion of the number of shares not borrowed and delivered by such forward seller. In such event, we or the representatives of the underwriters will have the right to postpone the closing date for one business day to effect any necessary changes to the documents or arrangements in connection with such closing.

We will receive an amount equal to the net proceeds from the sale of the borrowed shares of our common stock sold in this offering, subject to certain adjustments pursuant to the forward sale agreements, from the forward purchasers upon physical settlement of the forward sale agreements. We will only receive such proceeds if we elect to physically settle the forward sale agreements.

The forward sale agreements provide for settlement on a settlement date or dates to be specified at our discretion within approximately 14 months from the date of this prospectus supplement. On a settlement date or dates, if we decide to physically settle a forward sale agreement, we will issue shares of our common stock to the relevant forward purchaser at the then-applicable forward sale price. The forward sale price will initially be \$ per share, which is the public offering price of our shares of common stock less the underwriting discounts and commissions shown on the cover page of this prospectus supplement. The forward sale agreements provide that the initial forward sale price will be subject to adjustment based on a floating interest rate factor equal to the federal funds rate less an agreed upon spread, and, will be subject to decrease on each of certain dates specified in the forward sale agreements. The forward sale price under each forward sale agreement will also be subject to decrease if the cost to the relevant forward seller of borrowing our common stock exceeds a specified amount. If the federal funds rate is less than the spread on any day, the interest rate factor will result in a daily reduction of the forward sale price. As of the date of this prospectus supplement, the federal funds rate was less than the spread.

Before any issuance of our common stock upon physical or net share settlement of the forward sale agreements, we expect that the shares issuable upon settlement of the forward sale agreements will be reflected in our diluted earnings per share calculations using the treasury stock method. Under this method, the number of shares of our common stock used in calculating diluted earnings per share is deemed to be increased by the excess, if any, of the number of shares that would be issued upon physical settlement of the forward sale agreements over the number of shares that could be purchased by us in the market (based on the average market price during the period) using the proceeds due upon settlement (based on the adjusted forward sale price at the end of the reporting period). Consequently, prior to physical or net share settlement of the forward sale agreements and subject to the occurrence of certain events, we anticipate there will be no dilutive effect on our earnings per share except during periods when the average market price of our common stock is above the per share adjusted forward sale price. However, if we physically or net share settle the forward sale agreements, the delivery of shares of our common stock would result in an increase in the number of shares outstanding and may result in dilution to our earnings per share and return on equity..

Each forward purchaser will have the right to accelerate its respective forward sale agreement and require us to physically settle its forward sale agreement on a date specified by such forward purchaser if:

in the commercially reasonable judgment of such forward purchaser, it or its affiliate is unable to hedge its exposure under its forward sale agreement because (i) of the lack of sufficient shares of our common stock being made available for borrowing by lenders, or (ii) such forward purchaser (or its affiliate) would incur a cost to borrow shares to hedge its exposure that is greater than a rate equal to 200 basis points per annum;

Table of Contents

we declare any dividend or distribution on shares of our common stock payable in (i) cash in excess of a specified amount, (ii) securities of another company, or (iii) any other type of securities (other than our common stock), rights, warrants or other assets for payment at less than the prevailing market price, as determined by such forward purchaser;

certain ownership thresholds applicable to such forward purchaser are exceeded;

an event is announced that, if consummated, would result in an extraordinary event (as defined in each forward sale agreement) including, among other things, certain mergers and tender offers, as well as certain events involving our nationalization or delisting of our common stock (each as more fully described in each forward sale agreement); or

certain other events of default or termination events occur, including, among other things, any material misrepresentation made in connection with entering into its forward sale agreement (as more fully described in each forward sale agreement).

Each forward purchaser's decision to exercise its right to accelerate its forward sale agreement and to require us to settle such forward sale agreement will be made irrespective of our interests, including our need for capital. In such cases, we could be required to issue and deliver our common stock under the terms of the physical settlement provisions of the relevant forward sale agreement irrespective of our capital needs, which would result in dilution to our earnings per share and return on equity. In addition, upon certain events of bankruptcy or insolvency relating to us, the forward sale agreements will terminate without further liability of either party. Following any such termination, we would not issue any shares and we would not receive any proceeds pursuant to the forward sale agreements.

The forward sale agreements will be physically settled, unless we elect cash or net share settlement under the forward sale agreements (which we have the right to do, subject to certain conditions, other than in the limited circumstances described above). Although we expect to settle entirely by the delivery of shares of our common stock, we may elect cash settlement or net share settlement for all or a portion of our obligations if we conclude that it is in our interest to do so. For example, we may conclude that it is in our interest to cash settle or net share settle if we have no current use for all or a portion of the net proceeds due upon physical settlement of the forward sale agreements. If we elect to cash or net share settle the forward sale agreements, the relevant forward purchaser or its affiliate will purchase shares of our common stock in secondary market transactions over a period of time for delivery to stock lenders in order to unwind its hedge and, if applicable in connection with net share settlement, to deliver shares to us. If the market value of our common stock at the time of such purchase is above the forward sale price at that time, we will pay or deliver, as the case may be, to the relevant forward purchaser under its forward sale agreement, an amount in cash, or a number of shares of our common stock with a market value, equal to such difference. Any such difference could be significant. Conversely, if the market value of our common stock at the time of such purchase is below the forward sale price at that time, such forward purchaser will pay or deliver, as the case may be, to us under its forward sale agreement, an amount in cash, or a number of shares of our common stock with a market value, equal to such difference.

If we elect to cash settle or net share settle a forward sale agreement, we would expect the relevant forward purchaser or its affiliate to purchase shares of our common stock in secondary market transactions for delivery to stock lenders in order to close out its short position. The purchase of our common stock by such forward purchaser or its affiliate could cause the price of our common stock to increase over time, thereby increasing the amount of cash we owe to such forward purchaser or decreasing the amount of cash that such forward purchaser owes us, as the case may be, in the event of cash settlement, or increasing the number of shares of our common stock we owe to such forward purchaser or decreasing the number of shares of our common stock that such forward purchaser owes us, as the case may be, in the event of net share settlement.

Table of Contents**Underwriting discounts and commissions**

The underwriters propose to offer the shares of common stock directly to the public at the initial public offering price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement and to certain dealers at that price less a concession not in excess of \$ _____ per share. After the public offering of the shares, the offering price and other selling terms may be changed by the underwriters. Sales of shares made outside of the United States may be made by affiliates of the underwriters.

The following table shows the per share and total underwriting discounts and commissions to be paid to the underwriters assuming both no exercise and full exercise of the underwriters' option to purchase additional shares.

	Without	With full
	over-	over-
	allotment	allotment
	exercise	exercise
Per Share	\$	\$
Total	\$	\$

We estimate that the total expenses of this offering, including registration, filing and listing fees, printing fees and legal and accounting expenses, but excluding the underwriting discounts and commissions, will be approximately \$ _____.

Over-allotment option

We have granted the underwriters an option to purchase from us directly up to an additional _____ shares of common stock to cover sales of shares by the underwriters which exceed the number of shares specified in the table above. The shares purchased under this over-allotment option will be purchased at the public offering price, less the underwriting discount and commissions and the amount of dividends on our common stock for which the relevant record date occurs during the period from and including _____, 2013 to but excluding the date the relevant option shares are purchased by the underwriters. The underwriters may exercise this option at any time, in whole or in part, until 30 days after the date of this prospectus supplement. If any additional shares of common stock are purchased, the underwriters will offer the additional shares on the same terms as those on which the shares are being offered.

If the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option, each underwriter will be obligated, subject to the conditions contained in the underwriting agreement, to purchase a number of additional shares of our common stock in approximately the same proportion as shown in the table above. We may elect, in our sole discretion if such option is exercised, that such additional shares of common stock be sold by the forward sellers to the underwriters (in which case we will enter into additional forward sale agreements with the forward purchasers in respect of the number of shares that are subject to the exercise of the underwriters' over-allotment option). In such event, if the forward sellers are unable to borrow and deliver for sale on the anticipated closing date such number of shares of our common stock, or if the forward purchasers determine, in their commercially reasonable judgment, that it is either impracticable to do so or that the forward sellers are unable to borrow, at a stock loan rate not greater than a specified amount, and deliver for sale on the anticipated closing date such number of shares of our common stock, then the relevant additional forward sale agreement will be terminated in its entirety. In addition, if a forward seller is unable to borrow and deliver for sale on the anticipated closing date for the exercise of such option the number of shares of our common stock with respect to which such option has been exercised, or if the related forward purchaser determines, in its commercially reasonable judgment, that it is either impracticable to do so or that such forward seller is unable to borrow, at a stock loan rate not greater than a specified amount, and deliver for sale on the anticipated closing date for the exercise of such option the number _____

Table of Contents

of shares of our common stock with respect to which such option has been exercised, then the number of shares of our common stock to which the relevant additional forward sale agreement relates will be reduced to the number that such forward seller can so borrow and deliver. In the event that the number of shares to which an additional forward sale agreement relates is so reduced, the commitments of the underwriters to purchase shares of our common stock from the relevant forward seller and such forward seller's obligation to borrow such shares for delivery and sale to the underwriters, as described above, will be replaced with the commitments to purchase from us and our corresponding obligation to issue directly to the underwriters all or such portion of the number of shares not borrowed and delivered by such forward seller. In such event, we or the representative of the underwriters will have the right to postpone the closing date for the exercise of such option for one business day to effect any necessary changes to the documents or arrangements in connection with such closing.

No sales of similar securities

Except in the case of any settlement of a forward sale agreement, the offering and/or sale of our common stock in this offering and subject to certain other exceptions, we, and our executive officers, have agreed that we will not (1) offer, pledge, announce the intention to sell, sell, contract to sell, sell any option or contract to purchase, purchase any option or contract to sell, grant any option, right or warrant to purchase or otherwise transfer or dispose of, directly or indirectly, or file with the SEC a registration statement under the Securities Act relating to, any shares of our common stock or securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for any shares of our common stock (including, without limitation, common stock or such other securities which may be deemed to be beneficially owned by such directors, executive officers and significant shareholders in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC and securities which may be issued upon exercise of a stock option or warrant), or publicly disclose the intention to make any offer, sale, pledge, disposition or filing, (2) enter into any swap or other agreement that transfers, in whole or in part, any of the economic consequences of ownership of any shares of common stock or any such other securities (regardless of whether any of these transactions are to be settled by the delivery of shares of common stock or such other securities, in cash or otherwise), or (3) make any demand for or exercise any right with respect to the registration of any shares of our common stock or any security convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for our common stock, in each case without the prior written consent of the representatives, for a period of 60 days after the date of this prospectus supplement, other than any shares of our common stock issued upon the exercise of options granted under our existing management incentive plans.

Electronic distribution

A prospectus in electronic format may be made available on the web sites maintained by one or more underwriters, or selling group members, if any, participating in the offering. The underwriters may agree to allocate a number of shares to underwriters and selling group members for sale to their online brokerage account holders. Internet distributions will be allocated by the representatives to underwriters and selling group members that may make Internet distributions on the same basis as other allocations.

Price stabilization and short positions

In connection with this offering, the underwriters may engage in stabilizing transactions, which involves making bids for, or purchasing and selling shares of, common stock in the open market for the purpose of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the common stock while this offering is in progress. These stabilizing transactions may include making short sales of the common stock, which involves the sale by the underwriters of a greater number of shares of common stock than they are required to purchase in this offering, and purchasing shares of common stock on the open market to cover positions created by short sales. Short sales may be covered shorts, which are short positions in an amount not greater than the underwriters' over-allotment option referred to above, or may be naked shorts, which are short positions in excess of that amount. The underwriters may close out any covered short position either by exercising their over-allotment option, in whole or in part, or by purchasing shares in the open market. In making this determination, the

Table of Contents

underwriters will consider, among other things, the price of shares available for purchase in the open market compared to the price at which the underwriters may purchase shares through the over-allotment option. A naked short position is more likely to be created if the underwriters are concerned that there may be downward pressure on the price of the common stock in the open market that could adversely affect investors who purchase in this offering. To the extent that the underwriters create a naked short position, they will purchase shares in the open market to cover the position.

The underwriters have advised us that, pursuant to Regulation M of the Securities Act, they may also engage in other activities that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of the common stock, including the imposition of penalty bids. This means that if the representatives of the underwriters purchases common stock in the open market in stabilizing transactions or to cover short sales, the representative can require the underwriters that sold those shares as part of this offering to repay the underwriting discount received by them.

These activities may have the effect of raising or maintaining the market price of the common stock or preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the common stock, and, as a result, the price of the common stock may be higher than the price that otherwise might exist in the open market. If the underwriters commence these activities, they may discontinue them at any time. The underwriters may carry out these transactions on the New York Stock Exchange, in the over-the-counter market or otherwise.

Sales outside the United States

Other than in the United States, no action has been taken by us or the underwriters that would permit a public offering of the securities offered by this prospectus supplement in any jurisdiction where action for that purpose is required. The securities offered by this prospectus supplement may not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, nor may this prospectus supplement or any other offering material or advertisements in connection with the offer and sale of any such securities be distributed or published in any jurisdiction, except under circumstances that will result in compliance with the applicable rules and regulations of that jurisdiction. Persons into whose possession this prospectus supplement comes are advised to inform themselves about and to observe any restrictions relating to the offering and the distribution of this prospectus supplement. This prospectus supplement does not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any securities offered by this prospectus in any jurisdiction in which such an offer or a solicitation is unlawful.

United Kingdom

This document is only being distributed to and is only directed at (i) persons who are outside the United Kingdom or (ii) to investment professionals falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (the *Order*) or (iii) high net worth entities, and other persons to whom it may lawfully be communicated, falling with Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Order (all such persons together being referred to as *relevant persons*). The securities are only available to, and any invitation, offer or agreement to subscribe, purchase or otherwise acquire such securities will be engaged in only with, relevant persons. Any person who is not a relevant person should not act or rely on this document or any of its contents.

European Economic Area

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a *Relevant Member State*), from and including the date on which the European Union Prospectus Directive (the *EU Prospectus Directive*) was implemented in that Relevant Member State (the *Relevant Implementation Date*) an offer of securities described in this prospectus may not be made to the public in that Relevant Member State prior to the publication of a prospectus in relation to the shares which has been approved by the competent authority in that Relevant Member State or, where appropriate, approved in another Relevant Member State and notified to the competent authority in that Relevant Member State, all in

Table of Contents

accordance with the EU Prospectus Directive, except that, with effect from and including the Relevant Implementation Date, an offer of securities described in this prospectus may be made to the public in that Relevant Member State at any time:

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

to fewer than 100 or, if the Relevant Member State has implemented the relevant provision of the 2010 PD Amending Directive, 150 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the EU Prospectus Directive); or

in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the EU Prospectus Directive, provided that no such offer of securities described in this prospectus shall result in a requirement for the publication by us of a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the EU Prospectus Directive.

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

Table of Contents

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Certain of the underwriters and their affiliates have provided in the past to us and our affiliates and may provide from time to time in the future certain commercial banking, financial advisory, investment banking and other services for us and such affiliates in the ordinary course of their business, for which they have received and may continue to receive customary fees and commissions. In addition, from time to time, certain of the underwriters and their affiliates may effect transactions for their own account or the account of customers, and hold on behalf of themselves or their customers, long or short positions in our debt or equity securities or loans, and may do so in the future.

All of the proceeds of this offering (excluding proceeds paid to us with respect to any common stock that we may sell to the underwriters in lieu of the forward sellers selling our common stock to the underwriters, and excluding any proceeds to us if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option and we elect to issue the additional shares to cover over-allotments directly, the proceeds to us from the issuance of such additional shares) will be paid to the forward purchasers. As a result, an affiliate of J.P. Morgan Securities LLC and an affiliate of Barclays Capital Inc. will each receive more than 5% of the net proceeds of this offering, not including underwriting compensation. Accordingly, this offering is being made in compliance with the requirements of FINRA Rule 5121 (Public Offerings of Securities with Conflicts of Interest). Pursuant to that rule, the appointment of a qualified independent underwriter is not necessary in connection with this offering because the shares of common stock have a bona fide public market (as such terms are defined in FINRA Rule 5121).

S-40

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

Certain legal matters in connection with the offering will be passed upon for Thermo Fisher by Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP. The underwriters have been represented by O Melveny & Myers LLP, New York, New York.

EXPERTS

The financial statements and financial statement schedule incorporated in this prospectus supplement by reference to Thermo Fisher's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 3, 2013 and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this prospectus supplement by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Thermo Fisher for the year ended December 31, 2012 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

S-41

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION AND INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other documents with the SEC under the Exchange Act. The public may read and copy any materials that we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street NE, 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. Also, the SEC maintains a website that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information that issuers, including Thermo Fisher, file electronically with the SEC. The public can obtain any documents that we file with the SEC at www.sec.gov. We also make available free of charge on or through our own website at www.thermofisher.com our Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and, if applicable, amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the SEC. We make our website content available for information purposes only. It should not be relied upon for investment purposes, nor is it incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

We incorporate by reference information into this prospectus supplement, any related free writing prospectus, and the accompanying prospectus, which means that we are disclosing important information to you by referring you to another document filed with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is deemed to be part of this prospectus supplement, any related free writing prospectus, and the accompanying prospectus except for any information that is superseded by information in this prospectus supplement. This prospectus supplement incorporates by reference the following documents that we previously filed with the SEC (File No. 1-08002):

Our 2012 Form 10-K filed on February 27, 2013, as amended by Amendment No. 1 on Form 10-K/A filed on February 28, 2013 and as further updated by the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on May 3, 2013;

Our quarterly report on Form 10-Q filed on May 3, 2013; and

Our current reports on Form 8-K filed on February 27, 2013, April 15, 2013, April 16, 2013, May 3, 2013, May 23, 2013 and June 4, 2013 (other than information in such reports that is deemed to have been furnished to, rather than filed with, the SEC in accordance with SEC rules).

We also incorporate by reference any filings we make with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus supplement and prior to the time that we or the forward sellers, as the case may be, sell all of the securities offered by this prospectus supplement. The information incorporated by reference, as updated, is an important part of this prospectus supplement. Information that is deemed to be furnished to, rather than filed with, the SEC shall not be incorporated by reference.

Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement will be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus supplement, any related free writing prospectus, and the accompanying prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus supplement, any related free writing prospectus, or the accompanying prospectus or in any other subsequently filed document that also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement, any related free writing prospectus, or the accompanying prospectus conflicts with, negates, modifies or supersedes that statement. Any statement that is modified or superseded will not constitute a part of this prospectus supplement, any related free writing prospectus, or the accompanying prospectus, except as modified or superseded.

Paper copies of the filings referred to above (other than exhibits, unless the exhibit is specifically incorporated by reference into the filing requested) may be obtained free of charge by writing to us or calling us, care of our Investor Relations Department at our principal executive office located at 81 Wyman Street, Waltham, Massachusetts 02451, Telephone: (781) 622-1000.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.

Debt Securities

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Depository Shares

Purchase Contracts

Purchase Units

Warrants

We may issue securities from time to time in one or more offerings. This prospectus describes the general terms of these securities and the general manner in which these securities will be offered. We will provide the specific terms of these securities in supplements to this prospectus. The prospectus supplements will also describe the specific manner in which these securities will be offered and may also supplement, update or amend information contained in this document. You should read this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement before you invest.

We may offer these securities in amounts, at prices and on terms determined at the time of offering. The securities may be sold directly to you, through agents, or through underwriters and dealers. If agents, underwriters or dealers are used to sell the securities, we will name them and describe their compensation in a prospectus supplement.

Our common stock trades on The New York Stock Exchange under the symbol **TMO**.

Investing in these securities involves certain risks. See **Risk Factors included in or incorporated by reference in any accompanying prospectus supplement and elsewhere in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus for a discussion of the factors you should carefully consider before deciding to purchase these securities.**

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission 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 March 6, 2013.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	1
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	1
<u>INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE</u>	1
<u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	2
<u>THERMO FISHER SCIENTIFIC INC.</u>	2
<u>RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u>	4
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	4
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES</u>	4
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u>	17
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES</u>	24
<u>DESCRIPTION OF PURCHASE CONTRACTS AND PURCHASE UNITS</u>	27
<u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u>	27
<u>FORMS OF SECURITIES</u>	28
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	30
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	32
<u>EXPERTS</u>	32

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which we refer to as the SEC, utilizing a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may from time to time sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide one or more prospectus supplements that will contain specific information about the terms of the offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement together with the additional information described under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information** on page 1 of this prospectus.

You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement or in any related free writing prospectus filed by us with the SEC. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. This prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement do not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities other than the securities described in the accompanying prospectus supplement or an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy such securities in any circumstances in which such offer or solicitation is unlawful. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement, the documents incorporated by reference and any related free writing prospectus is accurate only as of their respective dates. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed materially since those dates.

Unless the context otherwise indicates, references in this prospectus to **we**, **our** and **us** refer, collectively, to Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc., a Delaware corporation, and its consolidated subsidiaries.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Our SEC filings are available to the public over the Internet at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. Copies of certain information filed by us with the SEC are also available on our website at www.thermofisher.com. Our website is not a part of this prospectus. You may also read and copy any document we file at the SEC's public reference room, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the public reference room.

This prospectus is part of a registration statement we filed with the SEC. This prospectus omits some information contained in the registration statement in accordance with SEC rules and regulations. You should review the information in and exhibits to the registration statement for further information on us and our consolidated subsidiaries and the securities we are offering. Statements in this prospectus concerning any document we filed as an exhibit to the registration statement or that we otherwise filed with the SEC are not intended to be comprehensive and are qualified by reference to these filings. You should review the complete document to evaluate these statements.

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference much of the information we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those publicly available documents. The information that we incorporate by reference in this prospectus is considered to be part of this prospectus.

Table of Contents

Because we are incorporating by reference future filings with the SEC, this prospectus is continually updated and those future filings may modify or supersede some of the information included or incorporated in this prospectus. This means that you must look at all of the SEC filings that we incorporate by reference to determine if any of the statements in this prospectus or in any document previously incorporated by reference have been modified or superseded. This prospectus incorporates by reference the documents listed below (File No. 001-08002) and any future filings we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act (in each case, other than those documents or the portions of those documents not deemed to be filed) until the offering of the securities under the registration statement is terminated or completed:

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012, filed with the SEC on February 27, 2013, as amended by Amendment No. 1 on Form 10-K/A filed with the SEC on February 28, 2013, including the information specifically incorporated by reference into the Form 10-K from our definitive proxy statement for the 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders;

Current Report on Form 8-K filed on February 27, 2013; and

The description of our common stock and rights plan contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed on September 16, 2005 and Form 8-A/A filed on May 12, 2006, including any other amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description.

You may request a copy of these filings, at no cost, by writing or telephoning us at the following address:

Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.

81 Wyman Street

Waltham, Massachusetts 02451

Attn: Investor Relations

Telephone: (781) 622-1111

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus include forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act. Any statements contained herein that are not statements of historical fact may be deemed to be forward-looking statements. Without limiting the foregoing, the words believes, anticipates, plans, expects, seeks, estimates, and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. While the company may elect to update forward-looking statements in the future, it specifically disclaims any obligation to do so, even if the company's estimates change, and readers should not rely on those forward-looking statements as representing the company's views as of any date subsequent to the date of the filing of this report.

A number of important factors could cause the results of the company to differ materially from those indicated by such forward-looking statements, including those detailed in the section of any prospectus supplement entitled Risk Factors.

THERMO FISHER SCIENTIFIC INC.

Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc. (also referred to in this document as Thermo Fisher, we, the company, or the registrant) is the world leader in serving science. Our mission is to enable our customers to make the world healthier, cleaner and safer by providing analytical instruments, equipment, reagents and consumables, software and services for research, manufacturing, analysis, discovery and diagnostics.

Table of Contents

In November 2006, Thermo Electron Corporation merged with Fisher Scientific International Inc. to create Thermo Fisher. Thermo Fisher has approximately 38,900 employees and serves more than 350,000 customers within pharmaceutical and biotech companies, hospitals and clinical diagnostic labs, universities, research institutions and government agencies, as well as environmental, industrial quality and process control settings.

We serve our customers through three premier brands, Thermo Scientific, Fisher Scientific and Unity Lab Services:

Thermo Scientific is our technology brand, offering customers a complete range of high-end analytical instruments as well as laboratory equipment, software, services, consumables and reagents. Our portfolio of products includes innovative technologies for mass spectrometry, elemental analysis, molecular spectroscopy, sample preparation, informatics, chemical research and analysis, cell culture, bioprocess production, cellular, protein and molecular biology research, allergy testing, drugs-of-abuse testing, therapeutic drug monitoring testing, microbiology, anatomical pathology, transplant diagnostics, as well as environmental monitoring and process control.

Fisher Scientific is our channels brand, offering customers a complete portfolio of laboratory equipment, chemicals, supplies and services used in scientific research, healthcare, safety and education markets. These products are offered through an extensive network of direct sales professionals, industry-specific catalogs, e-commerce capabilities and supply-chain management services. We also offer a range of biopharma services for clinical trials management and biospecimen storage.

Unity Lab Services is our services brand, offering a complete portfolio of services from enterprise level engagements to individual instruments and laboratory equipment, regardless of the original manufacturer. Our services are designed to help our customers improve productivity, reduce costs and drive decisions with better data and information. Unity Lab Services offers a network of world-class service and support personnel with proven expertise to provide our customers with solutions that improve their laboratory operations.

In addition to our three premier brands, we offer a number of specialty brands that cover a range of products.

We continuously increase our depth of capabilities in technologies, software and services, and leverage our extensive global channels to address our customers' emerging needs. Our goal is to make our customers more productive in an increasingly competitive business environment, and to allow them to solve their challenges, from complex research to improved patient care, environmental and process monitoring, and consumer safety.

Thermo Fisher is a Delaware corporation and was incorporated in 1956. The company completed its initial public offering in 1967 and was listed on the New York Stock Exchange in 1980. The company's principal executive offices are located at 81 Wyman Street, Waltham, Massachusetts 02451, and its telephone number is (781) 622-1000.

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

The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for each of the periods indicated. You should read this table in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012 filed with the SEC on February 27, 2013, which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

	December 31, 2012	December 31, 2011	Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2010	December 31, 2009	December 31, 2008
Ratios of earnings to fixed charges	5.5x	6.2x	9.6x	6.6x	6.7x

For purposes of determining the ratios above, earnings consist of income from continuing operations before income taxes and fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest expense, amortization of debt expenses and an appropriate interest factor on operating leases.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of any securities offered under this prospectus for general corporate purposes unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement. General corporate purposes may include the acquisition of companies or businesses, repayment and refinancing of debt, working capital and capital expenditures or the repurchase of our outstanding equity securities. We may temporarily invest the net proceeds in short-term, liquid investments until they are used for their stated purpose. We have not determined the amount of net proceeds to be used specifically for such purposes. As a result, management will retain broad discretion over the allocation of net proceeds.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

We may offer debt securities which may be senior or subordinated. We refer to the senior debt securities and the subordinated debt securities collectively as debt securities. The following description summarizes the general terms and provisions of the debt securities. We will describe the specific terms of the debt securities and the extent, if any, to which the general provisions summarized below apply to any series of debt securities in the prospectus supplement relating to the series and any applicable free writing prospectus that we authorize to be delivered. When we refer to the Company, we, our, and us in this section, we mean Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc. excluding, unless the context otherwise requires, or as otherwise expressly stated, our subsidiaries.

We may issue senior debt securities from time to time, in one or more series under a senior indenture between us and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., which we refer to as the senior trustee. We may issue subordinated debt securities from time to time, in one or more series under a subordinated indenture to be entered into between us and a subordinated trustee to be named in a prospectus supplement, which we refer to as the subordinated trustee. The senior indenture and the form of the subordinated indenture are filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. Together, the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture are referred to as the indentures and, together, the senior trustee and the subordinated trustee are referred to as the trustees. This prospectus briefly outlines some of the provisions of the indentures. The following summary of the material provisions of the indentures is qualified in its entirety by the provisions of the indentures, including definitions of certain terms used in the indentures. Wherever we refer to particular sections or defined terms of the indentures, those sections or defined terms are incorporated by reference in this prospectus or the applicable prospectus supplement. You should review the indentures that are filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part for additional information.

Table of Contents

None of the indentures will limit the amount of debt securities that we may issue. The applicable indenture will provide that debt securities may be issued up to an aggregate principal amount authorized from time to time by us and may be payable in any currency or currency unit designated by us or in amounts determined by reference to an index.

General

The senior debt securities will constitute our unsecured and unsubordinated general obligations and will rank pari passu with our other unsecured and unsubordinated obligations. The subordinated debt securities will constitute our unsecured and subordinated general obligations and will be junior in right of payment to our senior indebtedness (including senior debt securities), as described under the heading **Certain Terms of the Subordinated Debt Securities** Subordination.

The debt securities will be our unsecured obligations. Any secured debt or other secured obligations will be effectively senior to the debt securities to the extent of the value of the assets securing such debt or other obligations.

The applicable prospectus supplement and/or free writing prospectus will include any additional or different terms of the debt securities being offered, including the following terms:

the title of the debt securities;

whether the debt securities will be senior or subordinated debt securities, and, with respect to debt securities issued under the subordinated indenture, the terms on which they are subordinated;

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

the rate or rates (which may be fixed or variable) at which the debt securities will bear interest, or the manner of calculating such rate or rates, if applicable;

the date or dates from which such interest will accrue, the interest payment dates on which such interest will be payable or the manner of determination of such interest payment dates and the related record dates;

any trustees, authenticating agents or paying agents, if different from those set forth in this prospectus;

the right, if any, to extend the interest payment periods or defer the payment of interest and the duration of that extension or deferral;

the period or periods within which, the price or prices at which and the terms and conditions upon which debt securities may be redeemed, in whole or in part, at our option;

the manner of paying principal and interest and the place or places where principal and interest will be payable;

provisions for a sinking fund or other analogous fund;

the form of the debt securities;

if other than denominations of \$1,000 or any integral multiple thereof, the denominations in which the debt securities will be issuable;

the currency or currencies in which payment of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on, the debt securities will be payable;

if the principal amount payable at the stated maturity of the debt securities will not be determinable as of any one or more dates prior to such stated maturity, the amount which will be deemed to be such principal amount as of any such date for any purpose;

Table of Contents

the terms of any repurchase or remarketing rights;

whether the debt securities will be issued in global form, the terms upon which the debt securities will be exchanged for definitive form, the depositary for the debt securities and the form of legend;

any conversion or exchange features of the debt securities;

if other than the principal amount thereof, the portion of the principal amount of the debt securities which shall be payable upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity thereof;

any restrictive covenants or events of default in addition to or in lieu of those set forth in this prospectus;

any provisions granting special rights to holders when a specified event occurs;

if the amount of principal or any premium or interest on the debt securities may be determined with reference to an index or pursuant to a formula, the manner in which such amounts will be determined;

any special tax implications of the debt securities;

whether and upon what terms the debt securities may be defeased if different from the provisions set forth in this prospectus;

with regard to the debt securities that do not bear interest, the dates for certain required reports to the applicable trustee; and

any all additional, eliminated or changed terms that will apply to the debt securities.

We may from time to time, without notice to or the consent of the holders of any series of debt securities, create and issue further debt securities of any such series ranking equally with the debt securities of such series and having the same terms as such series (or the same terms other than (1) the payment of interest accruing prior to the issue date of such further debt securities or (2) the first payment of interest following the issue date of such further debt securities). Such further debt securities may be consolidated and form a single series with the debt securities of such series and have the same terms as to status, redemption or otherwise as the debt securities of such series.

You may present debt securities for exchange and you may present debt securities for transfer in the manner, at the places and subject to the restrictions set forth in the debt securities and the applicable prospectus supplement. We will provide you those services without charge, although you may have to pay any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection with any exchange or transfer, as set forth in the indentures.

Debt securities will bear interest at a fixed rate or a floating rate. Debt securities bearing no interest or interest at a rate that at the time of issuance is below the prevailing market rate (called original issue discount securities) may be sold at a discount below their stated principal amount. U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to any such discounted debt securities or to certain debt securities issued at par which are treated as having been issued at a discount for U.S. federal income tax purposes will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

We may issue debt securities with the principal amount payable on any principal payment date, or the amount of interest payable on any interest payment date, to be determined by reference to one or more currency exchange rates, securities or baskets of securities, commodity prices or indices. You may receive a payment of principal on any principal payment date, or a payment of interest on any interest payment date, that is

Edgar Filing: THERMO FISHER SCIENTIFIC INC. - Form 424B5

greater than or less than the amount of principal or interest otherwise payable on such dates, depending on the value on such dates of the applicable currency, security or basket of securities, commodity or index. Information as to the methods for determining the amount of principal or interest payable on any date, the currencies, securities or baskets of securities, commodities or indices to which the amount payable on such date is linked and certain related tax considerations will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

Certain Terms of the Senior Debt Securities

Certain Covenants

Limitations on Liens. We will not, and will not permit any of our subsidiaries to, create, incur, assume or otherwise cause to become effective any Lien (other than permitted Liens) on any Principal Property or upon shares of stock of any Principal Subsidiary (whether such Principal Property or shares are now existing or owned or hereafter created or acquired), to secure any indebtedness of ours, any of our subsidiaries or any indebtedness of any other Person, unless we or such subsidiary also secures all payments due under the senior debt securities and all senior debt securities of any series having the benefit of this covenant (together with, if we shall so determine, any other indebtedness of ours or any subsidiary of ours then existing or thereafter created ranking equally with the senior debt securities), on an equal and ratable basis with such other indebtedness so secured (or, in the case of indebtedness subordinated to the senior debt securities, prior or senior thereto, with the same relative priority as the senior debt securities issued pursuant to the senior indenture will have with respect to such subordinated indebtedness) for so long as such other indebtedness shall be so secured. The senior indenture contains the following exceptions to the foregoing prohibition:

- (a) Liens existing on the date when we first issue the senior debt securities pursuant to the senior indenture;
- (b) Liens on property owned or leased by a Person existing at the time such Person is merged with or into or consolidated with us or any subsidiary of ours or we or one or more of our subsidiaries acquires directly or indirectly all or substantially all of the stock or assets of such Person; provided that such Liens were in existence prior to the contemplation of such merger, consolidation or acquisition and do not extend to any assets other than those of the Person merged into, consolidated with or acquired by us or such subsidiary;
- (c) Liens on property existing at the time of acquisition thereof by us or any subsidiary of ours, provided that such Liens were in existence prior to the contemplation of such acquisition and do not extend to any property other than the property so acquired by us or such subsidiary;
- (d) Liens to secure indebtedness incurred prior to, at the time of or within 18 months after the later of the acquisition of any property and the completion of the construction, alteration, repair or improvement of any property, as the case may be, for the purpose of financing all or a part of the purchase price thereof or cost of the construction, alteration, repair or improvement thereof and Liens to the extent they secure indebtedness in excess of such purchase price or cost and for the payment of which recourse may be had only against such property;
- (e) Liens in favor of the United States or any state, territory or possession thereof (or the District of Columbia), or any department, agency, instrumentality or political subdivision of the United States or any state, territory or possession thereof (or the District of Columbia), to secure partial, progress, advance or other payments pursuant to any contract or statute or to secure any indebtedness incurred for the purpose of financing all or any part of the purchase price or the cost of constructing or improving the property subject to such Liens;
- (f) any Lien securing indebtedness of a subsidiary owing to us or to one or more of our subsidiaries;
- (g) Liens incurred or assumed in connection with the issuance of revenue bonds the interest on which is exempt from federal taxation pursuant to Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code;
- (h) Liens created, incurred or assumed in connection with an industrial revenue bond, pollution control bond or similar financing between us or any subsidiary of ours and any federal, state or municipal government or other government body or quasi-governmental agency;
- (i) any extension, renewal or replacement (or successive extensions, renewals or replacements) in whole or in part of any Lien referred to in clauses (a) through (h) above, inclusive, so long as (1) the principal amount of the indebtedness secured thereby does not exceed the principal amount of indebtedness so secured at the time of the extension, renewal or replacement (except that, where an additional principal amount of indebtedness is incurred to provide funds for the completion of a specific project, the additional principal amount, and any related financing costs, may be secured by the Lien as well) and (2) the Lien is limited to the same property subject to the Lien so extended, renewed or replaced (and improvements on the property); and

Table of Contents

(j) any Lien on a Principal Property or the shares of stock of a Principal Subsidiary that would not otherwise be permitted by clauses (a) through (i) above, inclusive, securing indebtedness which, together with:

the aggregate outstanding principal amount of all other indebtedness of us and our subsidiaries secured by Liens on a Principal Property or the shares of stock of a Principal Subsidiary that is permitted solely pursuant to this clause (j), and

the aggregate Value of existing Sale and Leaseback Transactions that are permitted solely pursuant to clause (c) of Limitation on Sale and Leaseback Transactions and are still in existence, does not exceed 10% of our Consolidated Net Assets.

In order to constitute a Principal Property under the senior indenture, a property must have a book value in excess of 3% of our most recently calculated Consolidated Net Assets. Based on our Consolidated Net Assets as of December 31, 2012, a property would only constitute a Principal Property if it had a book value in excess of approximately \$535 million. As of the date of this prospectus, neither we nor any of our subsidiaries owns any Principal Property as defined. See Definition of Certain Terms.

Limitation on Sale and Leaseback Transactions. We will not, and will not permit any of our subsidiaries to, enter into any Sale and Leaseback Transaction with respect to any Principal Property unless:

(a) we or such subsidiary could incur indebtedness, in a principal amount at least equal to the Value of such Sale and Leaseback Transaction, secured by a Lien on the Principal Property to be leased (without equally and ratably securing debt securities of any series having the benefit of this covenant) pursuant to clauses (a) through (i) under Limitations on Liens above;

(b) we apply, during the six months following the effective date of the Sale and Leaseback Transaction, an amount equal to the Value of the Sale and Leaseback Transaction to either (or a combination of) the voluntary retirement of Funded Debt or to the acquisition of property; or

(c) the aggregate Value of such Sale and Leaseback Transaction plus the Value of all other Sale and Leaseback Transactions of Principal Properties entered into after the date of the issuance of the senior debt securities permitted solely by this clause (c) and still in existence, plus the aggregate amount of all indebtedness secured by Liens permitted solely by clause (j) of Limitation on Liens does not exceed 10% of our Consolidated Net Assets.

Certain Other Covenants. The senior indenture contains certain other covenants regarding, among other matters, corporate existence and reports to holders of senior debt securities. Unless we indicate otherwise in a prospectus supplement, the senior debt securities will not contain any additional financial or restrictive covenants, including covenants relating to total indebtedness, interest coverage, stock repurchases, recapitalizations, dividends and distributions to shareholders or current ratios. The provisions of the senior indenture do not afford holders of senior debt securities issued thereunder protection in the event of a sudden or significant decline in our credit quality or in the event of a takeover, recapitalization or highly leveraged or similar transaction involving us or any of our affiliates that may adversely affect such holders.

Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets. Unless we indicate otherwise in a prospectus supplement, we will not consolidate with, merge with or into, or sell, convey, transfer, lease or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our and our subsidiaries property and assets taken as a whole (in one transaction or a series of related transactions) to any Person, or permit any Person to merge with or into us, unless:

we shall be the continuing Person, or the Person (if other than us) formed by such consolidation or into which we are merged or that acquired or leased such property and assets (the Surviving Person), shall be a Person organized and validly existing under the laws of the United States of America or any jurisdiction thereof, or, subject to certain conditions (including an obligation to pay additional amounts in respect of withholding taxes), a jurisdiction outside the United States, and shall expressly assume, by

Table of Contents

a supplemental indenture, executed and delivered to the senior trustee, all of our obligations under the senior indenture and the senior debt securities;

immediately after giving effect to such transaction, no default or event of default (each as defined in the senior indenture) shall have occurred and be continuing; and

we deliver to the senior trustee an officer's certificate and opinion of counsel, in each case stating that such consolidation, merger or transfer and such supplemental indenture complies with this provision and that all conditions precedent provided for herein relating to such transaction have been complied with.

The Surviving Person will succeed to, and be substituted for, us under the senior indenture and the senior debt securities and, except in the case of a lease, we shall be released of all obligations under the senior indenture and the senior debt securities.

No Protection in the Event of a Change of Control. Unless we indicate otherwise in a prospectus supplement with respect to a particular series of senior debt securities, the senior debt securities will not contain any provisions that may afford holders of the senior debt securities protection in the event we have a change of control or in the event of a highly leveraged transaction (whether or not such transaction results in a change of control).

Definition of Certain Terms. The following are the meanings of terms that are important in understanding the covenants described above.

Capital Lease Obligation means, at the time any determination thereof is to be made, the amount of the liability in respect of a capital lease that would at that time be required to be capitalized on a balance sheet in accordance with U.S. GAAP as in effect on the date of the senior indenture.

Consolidated Net Assets means the consolidated total assets of us and our subsidiaries as reflected in the Company's most recent balance sheet prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP as in effect at the time of such determination, less (a) all current liabilities (excluding any notes and loans payable, current maturities of long-term debt, the current portion of deferred revenue and obligations under capital leases) and (b) acquisition-related intangible assets in accordance with U.S. GAAP in effect at the time of such determination. Consolidated Net Assets includes goodwill of us and our subsidiaries.

Funded Debt means, as of any date of determination, our indebtedness or the indebtedness of a subsidiary maturing by its terms more than one year after its creation and indebtedness classified as long-term debt under U.S. GAAP as in effect on the date of the senior indenture, and in each case ranking at least *pari passu* with the senior debt securities.

indebtedness means, with respect to any specified Person, any indebtedness of such Person, whether or not contingent:

- 1) in respect of borrowed money;
- 2) evidenced by bonds, notes, debentures or similar instruments or letters of credit (or reimbursement agreements in respect thereof); and
- 3) in respect of Capital Lease Obligations.

In addition, the term *indebtedness* includes (x) all indebtedness (as defined above) of others secured by a Lien on any asset of the specified Person (whether or not such indebtedness is assumed by the specified Person), *provided* that the amount of such indebtedness will be the lesser of (A) the fair market value of such asset at such date of determination and (B) the amount of such indebtedness, and (y) to the extent not otherwise included, the guarantee by the specified Person of any indebtedness (as defined above) of any other Person.

Table of Contents

Lien means, with respect to any asset, any mortgage, lien, pledge, charge, security interest or encumbrance of any kind in respect of such asset, whether or not filed, recorded or otherwise perfected under applicable law, including any conditional sale or other title retention agreement.

Original Issue Discount Security means any debt security which provides for an amount less than the principal amount thereof to be due and payable upon a declaration of acceleration of maturity thereof pursuant to the senior indenture.

Person means any individual, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, joint venture, joint-stock company, association, trust, unincorporated organization or government or any agency or political subdivision of a government or governmental agency.

Principal Property means any single parcel of real property or any permanent improvement thereon (i) owned by us or any of our subsidiaries located in the United States, including our principal corporate office, any manufacturing facility or plant or any portion thereof and (ii) having a book value, as of the date of determination, in excess of 3% of our most recently calculated Consolidated Net Assets. Principal Property does not include any property that our board of directors has determined not to be of material importance to the business conducted by our subsidiaries and us, taken as a whole. As of the date of this offering memorandum, none of our current properties or those of our subsidiaries constitutes a Principal Property.

Principal Subsidiary means any direct or indirect subsidiary of ours that owns a Principal Property.

Sale and Leaseback Transaction means any arrangement with any Person providing for the leasing by Thermo Fisher or any subsidiary of any Principal Property which has been or is to be sold or transferred by Thermo Fisher or such subsidiary to such Person, excluding (1) temporary leases for a term, including renewals at the option of the lessee, of not more than three years, (2) leases between Thermo Fisher and a subsidiary or between subsidiaries of Thermo Fisher, (3) leases of a Principal Property executed by the time of, or within 12 months after the latest of, the acquisition, the completion of construction or improvement, or the commencement of commercial operation of the property, and (4) arrangements pursuant to any provision of law with an effect similar to the former Section 168(f)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended.

U.S. GAAP means generally accepted accounting principles set forth in the FASB Accounting Standards Codification or in such other statements by such other entity as have been approved by a significant segment of the accounting profession, which are in effect from time to time.

Value means, with respect to a Sale and Leaseback Transaction, an amount equal to the net present value of the lease payments (other than amounts required to be paid on account of property taxes, maintenance, repairs, insurance, water rates and other items that do not constitute payments for property rights) with respect to the term of the lease remaining on the date as of which the amount is being determined, without regard to any renewal or extension options contained in the lease, discounted at the weighted average interest rate on the debt securities of all series (including the yield to maturity on any Original Issue Discount Securities) which are outstanding on the effective date of such Sale and Leaseback Transaction.

Events of Default

The senior indenture defines an Event of Default with respect to any series of senior debt securities issued pursuant to the senior indenture. Events of Default on the senior debt securities are any of the following:

Default in the payment of the principal or any premium on senior debt securities when due (whether at maturity, upon acceleration, redemption or otherwise);

Default for 30 days in the payment of interest on senior debt securities when due;

Table of Contents

Failure by us to observe or perform any other term of the senior indenture for a period of 90 days after we receive a notice of default stating we are in breach. The notice must be sent by either the senior trustee or holders of 25% of the principal amount of the senior debt securities of the affected series;

(1) Failure by us to pay indebtedness for money we borrowed or guaranteed the payment of in an aggregate principal amount of at least \$100 million at the later of final maturity and the expiration of any related applicable grace period and such defaulted payment shall not have been made, waived or extended within 30 days or (2) acceleration of the maturity of any indebtedness for money we borrowed or guaranteed the payment of in an aggregate principal amount of at least \$100 million, if such indebtedness has not been discharged in full or such acceleration has not been rescinded or annulled within 30 days; *provided, however*, that, if the default under the instrument is cured by us, or waived by the holders of the indebtedness, in each case as permitted by the governing instrument, then the Event of Default under the senior indenture governing the senior debt securities caused by such default will be deemed likewise to be cured or waived;

Certain events in bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization with respect to us; and

Any other Event of Default provided for in such series of senior debt securities as may be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

An Event of Default under one series of senior debt securities issued pursuant to the senior indenture does not necessarily constitute an Event of Default under any other series of senior debt securities. The senior indenture provides that the senior trustee may withhold notice to the holders of any series of senior debt securities issued thereunder of any default if the trustee's board of directors, executive committee, or a trust committee of directors or trustees and/or certain officers of the trustee in good faith determine it in the interest of such holders to do so.

Remedies If an Event of Default Occurs. The senior indenture provides that if an Event of Default has occurred with respect to a series of senior debt securities and has not been cured, the senior trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of the senior debt securities of that series may declare the entire principal amount of all the senior debt securities of that series to be due and immediately payable. This is called a declaration of acceleration of maturity. If an Event of Default occurs because of certain events in bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization with respect to us, the principal amount of all the senior debt securities will be automatically accelerated, without any action by the senior trustee or any holder. The holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the senior debt securities of the affected series may by written notice to us and the senior trustee may, on behalf of the holders of the senior debt securities of the affected series, rescind an acceleration or waive any existing Default or Event of Default and its consequences under the senior indenture, if the rescission would not conflict with any judgment or decree, except a continuing Default or Event of Default in the payment of principal of, premium on, if any, or interest, if any, on, such senior debt securities.

Except as may otherwise be provided in the senior indenture in cases of default, where the senior trustee has some special duties, the senior trustee is not required to take any action under the senior indenture at the request of any holders unless the holders offer the senior trustee protection from expenses and liability (called an *indemnity*). If indemnity satisfactory to the senior trustee is provided, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding senior debt securities of the affected series may direct the time, method and place of conducting any lawsuit or other formal legal action seeking any remedy available to the senior trustee. Subject to certain exceptions contained in the senior indenture, these majority holders may also direct the senior trustee in performing any other action under the senior indenture.

Before you bypass the senior trustee and bring your own lawsuit or other formal legal action or take other steps to enforce your rights or protect your interests relating to the senior debt securities, the following must occur:

You must give the senior trustee written notice that an Event of Default has occurred and remains uncured.

Table of Contents

The holders of 25% in principal amount of all outstanding senior debt securities of the affected series must make a written request that the senior trustee take action because of the Event of Default, and must offer reasonable indemnity to the senior trustee against the cost and other liabilities of taking that action.

The senior trustee must have failed to take action for 60 days after receipt of the above notice and offer of indemnity and during such 60-day period, the senior trustee has not received a contrary instruction from holders of a majority in principal amount of all outstanding senior debt securities.

However, you are entitled at any time to bring a lawsuit for the payment of money due on your senior debt securities on or after the due date of that payment.

We will furnish to the senior trustee every year a written statement of two of our officers certifying that to their knowledge we are in compliance with the senior indenture and the senior debt securities, or else specifying any default.

Satisfaction and Discharge

The senior indenture will cease to be of further effect and the senior trustee, upon our demand and at our expense, will execute appropriate instruments acknowledging the satisfaction and discharge of the senior indenture upon compliance with certain conditions, including:

Our having paid all sums payable by us under the senior indenture, as and when the same shall be due and payable;

Our having delivered to the senior trustee for cancellation all senior debt securities theretofore authenticated under the senior indenture;

All senior debt securities of any series outstanding under the senior indenture not theretofore delivered to the senior trustee for cancellation shall have become due and payable or are by their terms to become due and payable within one year and we shall have deposited with the senior trustee sufficient cash or U.S. government or U.S. government agency notes or bonds that will generate enough cash to pay, at maturity or upon redemption, all such senior debt securities of any series outstanding under the senior indenture; or

Our having delivered to the senior trustee an officer's certificate and an opinion of counsel, each stating that these conditions have been satisfied.

Under current U.S. federal tax law, the deposit and our legal release from the senior debt securities would be treated as though we took back your senior debt securities and gave you your share of the cash and senior debt securities or bonds deposited in trust. In that event, you could recognize gain or loss on the senior debt securities you give back to us. Purchasers of the senior debt securities should consult their own advisers with respect to the tax consequences to them of such deposit and discharge, including the applicability and effect of tax laws other than the U.S. income tax law.

Defeasance

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement provides otherwise, the following discussion of legal defeasance and discharge and covenant defeasance will apply to any series of debt securities issued under the indentures.

Full Defeasance. We can legally release ourselves from any payment or other obligations on the debt securities of any series (called *full defeasance*) if the following conditions are met:

Edgar Filing: THERMO FISHER SCIENTIFIC INC. - Form 424B5

We deposit in trust for your benefit and the benefit of all other direct holders of the debt securities of the same series a combination of money and U.S. government or U.S. government agency notes or

Table of Contents

bonds that will generate enough cash to make interest, principal, any premium and any other payments on the debt securities of that series on their various due dates.

There is a change in current U.S. federal tax law or an IRS ruling that lets us make the above deposit without causing you to be taxed on the debt securities any differently than if we did not make the deposit and instead repaid the debt securities ourselves when due. Under current U.S. federal tax law, the deposit and our legal release from the debt securities would be treated as though we took back your debt securities and gave you your share of the cash and debt securities or bonds deposited in trust. In that event, you could recognize gain or loss on the debt securities you give back to us.

We deliver to the trustee a legal opinion of our counsel confirming the tax law change or ruling described above. If we ever did accomplish full defeasance, as described above, you would have to rely solely on the trust deposit for repayment of the debt securities. You could not look to us for repayment in the event of any shortfall.

However, even if we make the deposit in trust and opinion delivery arrangements discussed above, a number of our obligations relating to the debt securities will remain. These include our obligations:

to register the transfer and exchange of debt securities;

to replace mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen debt securities;

to maintain paying agencies; and

to hold money for payment in trust.

Covenant Defeasance. Without any change of current U.S. federal tax law, we can make the same type of deposit described above and be released from some of the covenants on the debt securities of any series. This is called *covenant defeasance*. In that event, you would lose the protection of those covenants but would gain the protection of having money and securities set aside in trust to repay the debt securities. In order to achieve covenant defeasance, we must do the following:

We must deposit in trust for your benefit and the benefit of all other direct holders of the debt securities of the same series a combination of money and U.S. government or U.S. government agency notes or bonds that will generate enough cash to make interest, principal, any premium and any other payments on the debt securities of that series on their various due dates.

We must deliver to the trustee a legal opinion of our counsel confirming that under current U.S. federal income tax law we may make the above deposit without causing you to be taxed on the debt securities any differently than if we did not make the deposit and instead repaid the debt securities ourselves when due.

If we accomplish covenant defeasance, you can still look to us for repayment of the debt securities if there were a shortfall in the trust deposit. In fact, if one of the Events of Default occurred (such as our bankruptcy) and the debt securities become immediately due and payable, there may be such a shortfall. Depending on the event causing the default, you may not be able to obtain payment of the shortfall.

Modification and Waiver

There are three types of changes we can make to the senior indenture and the senior debt securities.

Edgar Filing: THERMO FISHER SCIENTIFIC INC. - Form 424B5

Changes Requiring Approval of the Holder. First, there are changes that cannot be made to the senior debt securities without specific approval of the holder. The following is a list of those types of changes:

change the stated maturity of the principal or interest on any senior debt securities of such series;

reduce any amounts due on any senior debt securities of such series;

Table of Contents

reduce the amount of principal payable upon acceleration of the maturity of the senior debt securities following an Event of Default;

change the place or currency of payment for the senior debt securities;

impair the holder's right to sue for the enforcement of any payment on or with respect to the senior debt securities;

reduce the percentage in principal amount of the senior debt securities, the approval of whose holders is needed to modify or amend the senior indenture or the senior debt securities;

reduce the percentage in principal amount of the senior debt securities, the approval of whose holders is needed to waive compliance with certain provisions of the senior indenture or to waive certain defaults; and

modify any other aspect of the provisions dealing with modification and waiver of the senior indenture, except to increase the percentage required for any modification or to provide that other provisions of the senior indenture may not be modified or waived without consent of the holder of each security of such series affected by the modification.

Changes Not Requiring Approval. The second type of change does not require any vote by holders of the senior debt securities. This type is limited to the following types of changes:

cure any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency;

comply with covenants in the senior indenture regarding mergers and sales of assets;

evidence and provide for a successor senior trustee and add to or change the provisions of the senior indenture to provide for or facilitate the administration of the trusts under the senior indenture; or

comply with requirements of the SEC in order to effect or maintain the qualification of the senior indenture under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 (the "Trust Indenture Act").

Nor do we need any approval to make changes that affect only senior debt securities to be issued under the senior indenture after the changes take effect. We may also make changes or obtain waivers that do not adversely affect the senior debt securities, even if they affect other senior debt securities issued under the senior indenture. In those cases, we need only obtain any required approvals from the holders of the affected senior debt securities.

Changes Requiring a Majority Vote. Any other change to the senior indenture and the senior debt securities would require the following approval:

If the change affects only senior debt securities of one series, it must be approved by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the senior debt securities of that series.

If the change affects the senior debt securities as well as the senior debt securities of one or more other series issued under the senior indenture, it must be approved by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the senior debt securities and each other series of

senior debt securities affected by the change.

In each case, the required approval must be given by written consent.

The same vote would be required for us to obtain a waiver of a past default. However, we cannot obtain a waiver of a payment default or a waiver with respect to any other aspect of the senior indenture and the senior debt securities listed in the first category described previously under **Changes Requiring Approval of the Holder** unless we obtain your individual consent to the waiver.

Table of Contents

Further Details Concerning Voting

The senior debt securities will not be considered outstanding, and therefore not eligible to vote, if we have deposited or set aside in trust for you money for their payment or redemption. The senior debt securities will also not be eligible to vote if they have been fully defeased as described above under Full Defeasance.

We will generally be entitled to set any day as a record date for the purpose of determining the holders of outstanding senior debt securities that are entitled to vote or take other action under the senior indenture. In certain limited circumstances, the senior trustee will be entitled to set a record date for action by holders. If we or the senior trustee set a record date for a vote or other action to be taken by holders of senior debt securities, that vote or action may be taken only by persons who are holders of outstanding senior debt securities on the record date and must be taken within 180 days following the record date or another period that we may specify (or as the senior trustee may specify, if it set the record date). We may shorten or lengthen (but not beyond 180 days) this period from time to time.

No Personal Liability of Incorporators, Stockholders, Officers, Directors

The senior indenture provides that no recourse shall be had under any obligation, covenant or agreement of ours in the senior indenture or in any of the senior debt securities or because of the creation of any indebtedness represented thereby, against any of our incorporators, stockholders, officers or directors, past, present or future, or of any predecessor or successor entity thereof under any law, statute or constitutional provision or by the enforcement of any assessment or by any legal or equitable proceeding or otherwise. Each holder, by accepting the senior debt securities, waives and releases all such liability.

Concerning the Senior Trustee

Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as senior trustee under the senior indenture, has been appointed by us as paying agent, registrar and custodian with regard to the senior debt securities. The senior trustee or its affiliates may from time to time in the future provide banking and other services to us in the ordinary course of their business.

The senior indenture provides that, prior to the occurrence of an Event of Default with respect to the senior debt securities of a series and after the curing or waiving of all such Events of Default with respect to that series, the senior trustee will not be liable except for the performance of such duties as are specifically set forth in the senior indenture. If an event of default has occurred and has not been cured or waived, the senior trustee will exercise such rights and powers vested in it under the senior indenture and will use the same degree of care and skill in its exercise as a prudent person would exercise under the circumstances in the conduct of such person's own affairs.

The senior indenture and the provisions of the Trust Indenture Act incorporated by reference therein contain limitations on the rights of the senior trustee thereunder, should it become a creditor of ours or any of our subsidiaries, to obtain payment of claims in certain cases or to realize on certain property received by it in respect of any such claims, as security or otherwise. The senior trustee is permitted to engage in other transactions, provided that if it acquires any conflicting interest (as defined in the Trust Indenture Act), it must eliminate such conflict or resign.

Unclaimed Funds

All funds deposited with the senior trustee or any paying agent for the payment of principal, interest, premium or additional amounts in respect of the senior debt securities that remain unclaimed for one year after the date upon which the principal of, premium, if any, or interest on such debt securities shall have become due and payable will be repaid to us. Thereafter, any right of any holder of senior debt securities to such funds shall be enforceable only against us, and the senior trustee and paying agents will have no liability therefor.

Table of Contents

Governing Law

The senior indenture and the senior debt securities will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York.

Certain Terms of the Subordinated Debt Securities

Other than the terms of the subordinated indenture and subordinated debt securities relating to subordination or otherwise as described in the prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of subordinated debt securities, the terms of the subordinated indenture and subordinated debt securities are identical in all material respects to the terms of the senior indenture and senior debt securities, except the subordinated indenture and subordinated debt securities will not include a limitation on liens or a limitation on sale and leaseback transactions.

Additional or different subordination terms may be specified in the prospectus supplement applicable to a particular series.

Subordination. The indebtedness evidenced by the subordinated debt securities is subordinate to the prior payment in full of all of our senior indebtedness, as defined in the subordinated indenture. During the continuance beyond any applicable grace period of any default in the payment of principal, premium, interest or any other payment due on any of our senior indebtedness, we may not make any payment of principal of, or premium, if any, or interest on the subordinated debt securities, except under limited circumstances set forth in the subordinated indenture. In addition, upon any payment or distribution of our assets upon any dissolution, winding up, liquidation or reorganization, the payment of the principal of, or premium, if any, and interest on the subordinated debt securities will be subordinated to the extent provided in the subordinated indenture in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all our senior indebtedness. Because of this subordination, if we dissolve or otherwise liquidate, holders of our subordinated debt securities may receive less, ratably, than holders of our senior indebtedness. The subordination provisions do not prevent the occurrence of an event of default under the subordinated indenture.

The term *senior indebtedness* of a person means with respect to such person the principal of, premium, if any, interest on, and any other payment due pursuant to any of the following, whether outstanding on the date of the subordinated indenture or incurred by that person in the future:

all of the indebtedness of that person for money borrowed;

all of the indebtedness of that person evidenced by notes, debentures, bonds or other securities sold by that person for money;

all of the lease obligations which are capitalized on the books of that person in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;

all indebtedness of others of the kinds described in the first two bullet points above and all lease obligations of others of the kind described in the third bullet point above that the person, in any manner, assumes or guarantees or that the person in effect guarantees through an agreement to purchase, whether that agreement is contingent or otherwise; and

all renewals, extensions or refundings of indebtedness of the kinds described in the first, second or fourth bullet point above and all renewals or extensions of leases of the kinds described in the third or fourth bullet point above;

unless, in the case of any particular indebtedness, renewal, extension or refunding, the instrument creating or evidencing it or the assumption or guarantee relating to it expressly provides that such indebtedness, renewal, extension or refunding is not superior in right of payment to the subordinated debt securities. Our senior debt securities constitute senior indebtedness for purposes of the subordinated indenture.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

The following description of our capital stock is intended as a summary only. This description is based upon, and is qualified by reference to, our third amended and restated certificate of incorporation (the "certificate of incorporation"), our bylaws and applicable provisions of Delaware corporate law. This summary is not complete. You should read our certificate of incorporation and bylaws, which are filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part, for the provisions that are important to you.

Our capital stock consists of 1.2 billion shares of common stock, \$1.00 par value per share, and 50,000 shares of preferred stock, \$100 par value per share. 40,000 shares of preferred stock are designated as Series B Junior Participating Preferred stock. As of December 31, 2012, 357,443,765 shares of common stock and no shares of preferred stock were outstanding.

Common Stock

General

Annual Meeting. Annual meetings of our stockholders are held on the date designated in accordance with our bylaws. Written notice must be mailed to each stockholder entitled to vote not less than ten nor more than 60 days before the date of the meeting. The presence in person or by proxy of the holders of record of a majority of our issued and outstanding shares entitled to vote at such meeting constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business at meetings of the stockholders, unless or except to the extent that the presence of a larger number may be required by our certificate of incorporation or the Delaware General Corporation Law. Special meetings of the stockholders may only be called by the board of directors, the chairman of the board of directors or the chief executive officer. Except as may be otherwise provided by applicable law, our certificate of incorporation or our bylaws, all matters shall be decided by a majority of the votes cast by stockholders entitled to vote thereon at a duly held meeting of stockholders at which a quorum is present. Except as may be otherwise provided by our certificate of incorporation, a nominee shall be elected to the board of directors if the votes cast for such nominee's election exceed the votes cast against, provided that if, on the tenth business day before we mail our notice of meeting to the stockholders, the number of nominees exceeds the number of directors to be elected, the election shall be decided by a plurality.

Voting Rights. Each holder of common stock is entitled to one vote for each share held on all matters to be voted upon by stockholders.

Dividends. The holders of common stock, after any preferences of holders of any preferred stock, are entitled to receive dividends when and if declared by the board of directors out of legally available funds.

Liquidation and Dissolution. If we are liquidated or dissolved, the holders of the common stock will be entitled to share in our assets available for distribution to stockholders in proportion to the amount of common stock they own. The amount available for common stockholders is calculated after payment of liabilities. Holders of any preferred stock will receive a preferential share of our assets before the holders of the common stock receive any assets.

Other Rights. Holders of the common stock have no right to:

convert the stock into any other security;

have the stock redeemed; or

purchase additional stock or to maintain their proportionate ownership interest.

The common stock does not have cumulative voting rights. Holders of shares of the common stock are not required to make additional capital contributions.

Table of Contents

Directors Liability

Our certificate of incorporation provides that a member of the board of directors will not be personally liable to us or our stockholders for monetary damages for breaches of their legal duties to us or our stockholders as a director, except to the extent that the General Corporation Law of Delaware prohibits the elimination or limitation of liability of directors for breaches of fiduciary duty.

Our certificate of incorporation also allows us to indemnify directors and officers to the fullest extent authorized by Delaware law.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

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

Provisions of Our Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws and Delaware Law That May Have Anti-Takeover Effects

Board of Directors. In July 2011, our board of directors approved amendments to our bylaws to eliminate our classified board. The amended bylaws provide that the declassification of the board will not shorten the term of any incumbent director, so that all directors will be up for election annually beginning with the 2014 annual meeting. Each director elected from and after July 12, 2011 is elected to serve a term expiring at the next annual meeting of stockholders following such director's election. In all cases, directors hold office until their successors have been elected and qualified, or until their earlier resignation, death or removal.

Removal of Directors by Stockholders. Our bylaws provide that, except as otherwise provided by our certificate of incorporation or the Delaware General Corporation Law, which we refer to as the DGCL, any one or more or all of the members of our board of directors may be removed, with or without cause, by the holders of a majority of the voting power of the shares entitled to vote thereon.

Stockholder Nomination of Directors. Our bylaws provide that a stockholder must notify us in writing of any stockholder nomination of a director not less than 60 days and not more than 75 days prior to the first anniversary of the date on which we first mailed our proxy materials for the preceding year's annual meeting; provided, that if the date of the annual meeting is advanced or delayed by more than 30 days from such anniversary date, notice by the stockholder to be timely must be so delivered not later than the close of business on the later of (x) the 90th day prior to the date of such meeting or (y) the 10th day following the day on which public announcement of the date of such annual meeting is first made by us.

Delaware Business Combination Statute. Section 203 of the DGCL is applicable to us. Section 203 of the DGCL restricts some types of transactions and business combinations between a corporation and a 15% stockholder. A 15% stockholder is generally considered by Section 203 to be a person owning 15% or more of the corporation's outstanding voting stock. Section 203 refers to a 15% stockholder as an interested stockholder. Section 203 restricts these transactions for a period of three years from the date the stockholder acquires 15% or more of our outstanding voting stock. With some exceptions, unless the transaction is approved by the board of directors and the holders of at least two-thirds of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation, Section 203 prohibits significant business transactions such as:

a merger with, disposition of significant assets to or receipt of disproportionate financial benefits by the interested stockholder, and

any other transaction that would increase the interested stockholder's proportionate ownership of any class or series of our capital stock.

The shares held by the interested stockholder are not counted as outstanding when calculating the two-thirds of the outstanding voting stock needed for approval.

Table of Contents

The prohibition against these transactions does not apply if:

prior to the time that any stockholder became an interested stockholder, the board of directors approved either the business combination or the transaction in which such stockholder acquired 15% or more of our outstanding voting stock, or

the interested stockholder owns at least 85% of our outstanding voting stock as a result of a transaction in which such stockholder acquired 15% or more of our outstanding voting stock. Shares held by persons who are both directors and officers or by some types of employee stock plans are not counted as outstanding when making this calculation.

Preferred Stock

General

Under our charter, we have authority to issue 50,000 shares of preferred stock, \$100 par value per share. 40,000 shares of preferred stock are designated as Series B Junior Participating Preferred stock, \$100 par value per share. Other terms of any series of preferred stock will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to that series of preferred stock. The terms of any series of preferred stock may differ from the terms described below. Certain provisions of the preferred stock described below and in any applicable prospectus supplement are not complete.

We are authorized to issue blank check preferred stock, which may be issued in one or more series upon authorization of our board of directors. Our board of directors is authorized to fix the designation of the series, the number of authorized shares of the series, dividend rights and terms, conversion rights, voting rights, redemption rights and terms, liquidation preferences and any other rights, powers, preferences and limitations applicable to each series of preferred stock. The authorized shares of our 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 on which our securities may be listed. If the approval of our stockholders is not required for the issuance of shares of our preferred stock, our board may determine not to seek stockholder approval.

A series of our preferred stock could, depending on the terms of such series, impede the completion of a merger, tender offer or other takeover attempt. Our board of directors will make any determination to issue such shares based upon its judgment as to the best interests of our stockholders. Our directors, in so acting, could issue our preferred stock having terms that could discourage an acquisition attempt through which an acquirer may be able to change the composition of our board of directors, including a tender offer or other transaction that some, or a majority, of our stockholders might believe to be in their best interests or in which stockholders might receive a premium for their stock over the then-current market price of the stock.

The preferred stock has the terms described below unless otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of preferred stock. You should read the prospectus supplement relating to the particular series of preferred stock being offered for specific terms, including:

the designation and stated value per share of the preferred stock and the number of shares offered;

the amount of liquidation preference per share;

the price at which the preferred stock will be issued;

the dividend rate, or method of calculation of dividends, the dates on which dividends will be payable, whether dividends will be cumulative or noncumulative and, if cumulative, the dates from which dividends will commence to accumulate;

any redemption or sinking fund provisions;

if other than the currency of the United States, the currency or currencies including composite currencies in which the preferred stock is denominated and/or in which payments will or may be payable;

Table of Contents

any conversion provisions;

whether we have elected to offer depositary shares as described under Description of Depositary Shares; and

any other rights, preferences, privileges, limitations and restrictions on the preferred stock.

The preferred stock will, when issued, be fully paid and nonassessable. Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement, each series of preferred stock will rank equally as to dividends and liquidation rights in all respects with each other series of preferred stock. The rights of holders of shares of each series of preferred stock will be subordinate to those of our general creditors.

As described under Description of Depositary Shares, we may, at our option, with respect to any series of preferred stock, elect to offer fractional interests in shares of preferred stock and provide for the issuance of depositary receipts representing depositary shares, each of which will represent a fractional interest in a share of the series of preferred stock. The fractional interest will be specified in the prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of preferred stock.

Rank

Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement, the preferred stock will, with respect to dividend rights and rights upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up of its affairs, rank:

senior to our common stock and to all equity securities ranking junior to such preferred stock with respect to dividend rights or rights upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs;

on a parity with all equity securities issued by us, the terms of which specifically provide that such equity securities rank on a parity with the preferred stock with respect to dividend rights or rights upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs; and

junior to all equity securities issued by us, the terms of which specifically provide that such equity securities rank senior to the preferred stock with respect to dividend rights or rights upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs.

The term equity securities does not include convertible debt securities.

Dividends

Holders of the preferred stock of each series will be entitled to receive, when, as and if declared by our board of directors, cash dividends at such rates and on such dates described in the prospectus supplement. Different series of preferred stock may be entitled to dividends at different rates or based on different methods of calculation. The dividend rate may be fixed or variable or both. Dividends will be payable to the holders of record as they appear on our stock books on record dates fixed by our board of directors, as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Dividends on any series of preferred stock may be cumulative or noncumulative, as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. If our board of directors does not declare a dividend payable on a dividend payment date on any series of noncumulative preferred stock, then the holders of that noncumulative preferred stock will have no right to receive a dividend for that dividend payment date, and we will have no obligation to pay the dividend accrued for that period, whether or not dividends on that series are declared payable on any future dividend payment dates. Dividends on any series of cumulative preferred stock will accrue from the date we initially issue shares of such series or such other date specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

No dividends may be declared or paid or funds set apart for the payment of any dividends on any parity securities unless full dividends have been paid or set apart for payment on the preferred stock. If full dividends are not paid, the preferred stock will share dividends pro rata with the parity securities.

Table of Contents

No dividends may be declared or paid or funds set apart for the payment of dividends on any junior securities unless we have paid in full, or set apart for payment, such accumulated but unpaid dividends on the preferred stock.

Liquidation Preference

Upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs, then, before we make any distribution or payment to the holders of any common stock or any other class or series of our capital stock ranking junior to the preferred stock in the distribution of assets upon any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs, the holders of each series of preferred stock shall be entitled to receive, out of assets legally available for distribution to stockholders, liquidating distributions in the amount of the liquidation preference per share set forth in the prospectus supplement, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends thereon. Such dividends will not include any accumulation in respect of unpaid noncumulative dividends for prior dividend periods. Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement, after payment of the full amount of their liquidating distributions, the holders of preferred stock will have no right or claim to any of our remaining assets. Upon any such voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, if our available assets are insufficient to pay the amount of the liquidating distributions on all outstanding preferred stock and the corresponding amounts payable on all other classes or series of our capital stock ranking on parity with the preferred stock and all other such classes or series of shares of capital stock ranking on parity with the preferred stock in the distribution of assets, then the holders of the preferred stock and all other such classes or series of capital stock will share ratably in any such distribution of assets in proportion to the full liquidating distributions to which they would otherwise be entitled.

Upon any such liquidation, dissolution or winding up and if we have made liquidating distributions in full to all holders of preferred stock, we will distribute our remaining assets among the holders of any other classes or series of capital stock ranking junior to the preferred stock according to their respective rights and preferences and, in each case, according to their respective number of shares. For such purposes, our consolidation or merger with or into any other corporation, trust or entity, or the sale, lease or conveyance of all or substantially all of our property or assets will not be deemed to constitute a liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs.

Redemption

If so provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, the preferred stock will be subject to mandatory redemption or redemption at our option, as a whole or in part, in each case upon the terms, at the times and at the redemption prices set forth in such prospectus supplement.

The prospectus supplement relating to a series of preferred stock that is subject to mandatory redemption will specify the number of shares of preferred stock that shall be redeemed by us in each year commencing after a date to be specified, at a redemption price per share to be specified, together with an amount equal to all accrued and unpaid dividends thereon to the date of redemption. Unless the shares have a cumulative dividend, such accrued dividends will not include any accumulation in respect of unpaid dividends for prior dividend periods. We may pay the redemption price in cash or other property, as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement. If the redemption price for preferred stock of any series is payable only from the net proceeds of the issuance of shares of our capital stock, the terms of such preferred stock may provide that, if no such shares of our capital stock shall have been issued or to the extent the net proceeds from any issuance are insufficient to pay in full the aggregate redemption price then due, such preferred stock shall automatically and mandatorily be converted into the applicable shares of our capital stock pursuant to conversion provisions specified in the applicable prospectus supplement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, we will not redeem any preferred stock of a series unless:

if that series of preferred stock has a cumulative dividend, we have declared and paid or contemporaneously declare and pay or set aside funds to pay full cumulative dividends on the preferred stock for all past dividend periods and the then current dividend period;
or

Table of Contents

if such series of preferred stock does not have a cumulative dividend, we have declared and paid or contemporaneously declare and pay or set aside funds to pay full dividends for the then current dividend period.

In addition, we will not acquire any preferred stock of a series unless:

if that series of preferred stock has a cumulative dividend, we have declared and paid or contemporaneously declare and pay or set aside funds to pay full cumulative dividends on all outstanding shares of such series of preferred stock for all past dividend periods and the then current dividend period; or

if that series of preferred stock does not have a cumulative dividend, we have declared and paid or contemporaneously declare and pay or set aside funds to pay full dividends on the preferred stock of such series for the then current dividend period.

However, at any time we may purchase or acquire preferred stock of that series (1) pursuant to a purchase or exchange offer made on the same terms to holders of all outstanding preferred stock of such series or (2) by conversion into or exchange for shares of our capital stock ranking junior to the preferred stock of such series as to dividends and upon liquidation.

If fewer than all of the outstanding shares of preferred stock of any series are to be redeemed, we will determine the number of shares that may be redeemed pro rata from the holders of record of such shares in proportion to the number of such shares held or for which redemption is requested by such holder or by any other equitable manner that we determine. Such determination will reflect adjustments to avoid redemption of fractional shares.

Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement, we will mail notice of redemption at least 30 days but not more than 60 days before the redemption date to each holder of record of preferred stock to be redeemed at the address shown on our stock transfer books. Each notice shall state:

the redemption date;

the number of shares and series of preferred stock to be redeemed;

the redemption price;

the place or places where certificates for such preferred stock are to be surrendered for payment of the redemption price;

that dividends on the shares to be redeemed will cease to accrue on such redemption date;

the date upon which the holder's conversion rights, if any, as to such shares shall terminate; and

the specific number of shares to be redeemed from each such holder if fewer than all the shares of any series are to be redeemed. If notice of redemption has been given and we have set aside the funds necessary for such redemption in trust for the benefit of the holders of any shares called for redemption, then from and after the redemption date, dividends will cease to accrue on such shares and all rights of the holders of such shares will terminate, except the right to receive the redemption price.

Voting Rights

Holders of preferred stock will not have any voting rights, except as required by law or as indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

Unless otherwise provided for under the terms of any series of preferred stock, no consent or vote of the holders of shares of preferred stock or any series thereof shall be required for any amendment to our certificate of incorporation that would increase the number of authorized shares of preferred stock or the number of authorized shares of any series thereof or decrease the number of authorized shares of preferred stock or the number of authorized shares of any series thereof (but not below the number of authorized shares of preferred stock or such series, as the case may be, then outstanding).

Conversion Rights

The terms and conditions, if any, upon which any series of preferred stock is convertible into our common stock will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement relating thereto. Such terms will include the number of shares of common stock into which the shares of preferred stock are convertible, the conversion price, rate or manner of calculation thereof, the conversion period, provisions as to whether conversion will be at our option or at the option of the holders of the preferred stock, the events requiring an adjustment of the conversion price and provisions affecting conversion in the event of the redemption.

Shareholder Rights Plan

Our rights plan entitles the registered holder to a right to purchase from us a unit consisting of one one-hundred-thousandth of a share of Series B Junior Participating Preferred Stock, par value \$100 per share, at a purchase price of \$200 in cash per unit, subject to adjustment. The description and terms of the rights are set forth in an amended rights agreement dated as of September 15, 2005 between us and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, as rights agent. The summary of the agreement below is not complete, and you should read the agreement, which is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

Under the agreement, if (i) there is a public announcement that any person or group of affiliated or associated persons has become a beneficial owner of 15% or more of the outstanding shares of our common stock, (ii) any person commences a tender or exchange offer, the consummation of which would result in such person becoming the beneficial owner of 15% or more of the outstanding shares of our common stock, in either (i) or (ii) other than pursuant to an offer for all outstanding shares of common stock that at least 75% of the board of directors determines to be fair to, and in the best interests of, stockholders, or (iii) thereafter (x) we are involved in a merger or other business combination in which we are not the surviving corporation or our common stock is changed or exchanged, or (y) 50% or more of our assets or earning power is sold, each right (except rights which have been voided) entitles its holder to receive, upon exercise, our common stock (or, in the case of a merger or other business combination, stock of the acquiring company) having a value equal to the exercise price of the right divided by one-half of the current market price of the common stock.

Upon purchase, each share of preferred stock will be entitled to a minimum preferential quarterly dividend payment of \$100 per share and will be entitled to an aggregate dividend of 100,000 times the dividend declared per share of common stock. In the event of liquidation, the holders of the preferred stock will be entitled to a minimum preferential liquidating payment of \$100 per share and will be entitled to an aggregate payment of 100,000 times the payment made per share of common stock. Each share of preferred stock will have 100,000 votes, voting together with the common stock. Finally, in the event of any merger, consolidation or other transaction in which common stock is changed or exchanged, each share of preferred stock will be entitled to receive 100,000 times the amount received per share of common stock. These rights are protected by customary anti-dilution provisions.

Because of the nature of the preferred stock's dividend, liquidation and voting rights, the value of one one-hundred-thousandth of a share of preferred stock purchasable upon exercise of each right should approximate the value of one share of common stock.

The rights have certain anti-takeover effects. The rights will cause substantial dilution to a person or group that attempts to acquire us without conditioning the offer on a substantial number of rights being acquired.

Table of Contents

The rights, however, should not affect any prospective offeror willing to make a permitted offer. The rights should not interfere with any merger or other business combination approved by our board of directors since the board of directors may, at its option, redeem all but not less than all of the then outstanding rights for a nominal redemption price (\$0.01 per right).

The rights agreement contains a so-called TIDE provision, which requires that a stockholder rights plan committee of our board of directors shall review (not less than once every three years) whether maintaining the rights agreement continues to be in the best interest of the stockholders.

The rights will expire at the close of business on September 29, 2015, unless earlier redeemed or exchanged by us.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for the preferred stock will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

General

We may, at our option, elect to offer fractional shares of preferred stock, which we call depositary shares, rather than full shares of preferred stock. If we do, we will issue to the public receipts, called depositary receipts, for depositary shares, each of which will represent a fraction, to be described in the applicable prospectus supplement, of a share of a particular series of preferred stock. Unless otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement, each owner of a depositary share will be entitled, in proportion to the applicable fractional interest in a share of preferred stock represented by the depositary share, to all the rights and preferences of the preferred stock represented by the depositary share. Those rights include dividend, voting, redemption, conversion and liquidation rights.

The shares of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares will be deposited with a bank or trust company selected by us to act as depositary under a deposit agreement between us, the depositary and the holders of the depositary receipts. The depositary will be the transfer agent, registrar and dividend disbursing agent for the depositary shares.

The depositary shares will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued pursuant to the depositary agreement. Holders of depositary receipts agree to be bound by the deposit agreement, which requires holders to take certain actions such as filing proof of residence and paying certain charges.

The summary of terms of the depositary shares contained in this prospectus is not complete. You should refer to the form of the deposit agreement, our certificate of incorporation and the certificate of designation for the applicable series of preferred stock that are, or will be, filed with the SEC.

Dividends and Other Distributions

The depositary will distribute all cash dividends or other cash distributions, if any, received in respect of the preferred stock underlying the depositary shares to the record holders of depositary shares in proportion to the numbers of depositary shares owned by those holders on the relevant record date. The relevant record date for depositary shares will be the same date as the record date for the underlying preferred stock.

If there is a distribution other than in cash, the depositary will distribute property (including securities) received by it to the record holders of depositary shares, unless the depositary determines that it is not feasible to make the distribution. If this occurs, the depositary may, with our approval, adopt another method for the distribution, including selling the property and distributing the net proceeds from the sale to the holders.

Table of Contents

Liquidation Preference

If a series of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares has a liquidation preference, in the event of the voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of us, holders of depositary shares will be entitled to receive the fraction of the liquidation preference accorded each share of the applicable series of preferred stock, as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Withdrawal of Stock

Unless the related depositary shares have been previously called for redemption, upon surrender of the depositary receipts at the office of the depositary, the holder of the depositary shares will be entitled to delivery, at the office of the depositary to or upon his or her order, of the number of whole shares of the preferred stock and any money or other property represented by the depositary shares. If the depositary receipts delivered by the holder evidence a number of depositary shares in excess of the number of depositary shares representing the number of whole shares of preferred stock to be withdrawn, the depositary will deliver to the holder at the same time a new depositary receipt evidencing the excess number of depositary shares. In no event will the depositary deliver fractional shares of preferred stock upon surrender of depositary receipts. Holders of preferred stock thus withdrawn may not thereafter deposit those shares under the deposit agreement or receive depositary receipts evidencing depositary shares therefor.

Redemption of Depositary Shares

Whenever we redeem shares of preferred stock held by the depositary, the depositary will redeem as of the same redemption date the number of depositary shares representing shares of the preferred stock so redeemed, so long as we have paid in full to the depositary the redemption price of the preferred stock to be redeemed plus an amount equal to any accumulated and unpaid dividends on the preferred stock to the date fixed for redemption. The redemption price per depositary share will be equal to the redemption price and any other amounts per share payable on the preferred stock multiplied by the fraction of a share of preferred stock represented by one depositary share. If less than all the depositary shares are to be redeemed, the depositary shares to be redeemed will be selected by lot or pro rata or by any other equitable method as may be determined by the depositary.

After the date fixed for redemption, depositary shares called for redemption will no longer be deemed to be outstanding and all rights of the holders of depositary shares will cease, except the right to receive the monies payable upon redemption and any money or other property to which the holders of the depositary shares were entitled upon redemption upon surrender to the depositary of the depositary receipts evidencing the depositary shares.

Voting the Preferred Stock

Upon receipt of notice of any meeting at which the holders of the preferred stock are entitled to vote, the depositary will mail the information contained in the notice of meeting to the record holders of the depositary receipts relating to that preferred stock. The record date for the depositary receipts relating to the preferred stock will be the same date as the record date for the preferred stock. Each record holder of the depositary shares on the record date will be entitled to instruct the depositary as to the exercise of the voting rights pertaining to the number of shares of preferred stock represented by that holder's depositary shares. The depositary will endeavor, insofar as practicable, to vote the number of shares of preferred stock represented by the depositary shares in accordance with those instructions, and we will agree to take all action that may be deemed necessary by the depositary in order to enable the depositary to do so. The depositary will not vote any shares of preferred stock except to the extent it receives specific instructions from the holders of depositary shares representing that number of shares of preferred stock.

Table of Contents

Charges of Depositary

We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the depositary arrangements. We will pay charges of the depositary in connection with the initial deposit of the preferred stock and any redemption of the preferred stock. Holders of depositary receipts will pay transfer, income and other taxes and governmental charges and such other charges (including those in connection with the receipt and distribution of dividends, the sale or exercise of rights, the withdrawal of the preferred stock and the transferring, splitting or grouping of depositary receipts) as are expressly provided in the deposit agreement to be for their accounts. If these charges have not been paid by the holders of depositary receipts, the depositary may refuse to transfer depositary shares, withhold dividends and distributions and sell the depositary shares evidenced by the depositary receipt.

Amendment and Termination of the Deposit Agreement

The form of depositary receipt evidencing the depositary shares and any provision of the deposit agreement may be amended by agreement between us and the depositary. However, any amendment that materially and adversely alters the rights of the holders of depositary shares, other than fee changes, will not be effective unless the amendment has been approved by the holders of a majority of the outstanding depositary shares. The deposit agreement may be terminated by the depositary or us only if:

all outstanding depositary shares have been redeemed; or

there has been a final distribution of the preferred stock in connection with our dissolution and such distribution has been made to all the holders of depositary shares.

Resignation and Removal of Depositary

The depositary may resign at any time by delivering to us notice of its election to do so, and we may remove the depositary at any time. Any resignation or removal of the depositary will take effect upon our appointment of a successor depositary and its acceptance of such appointment. The successor depositary must be appointed within 60 days after delivery of the notice of resignation or removal and must be a bank or trust company having its principal office in the United States and having the requisite combined capital and surplus as set forth in the applicable agreement.

Notices

The depositary will forward to holders of depositary receipts all notices, reports and other communications, including proxy solicitation materials received from us, that are delivered to the depositary and that we are required to furnish to the holders of the preferred stock. In addition, the depositary will make available for inspection by holders of depositary receipts at the principal office of the depositary, and at such other places as it may from time to time deem advisable, any reports and communications we deliver to the depositary as the holder of preferred stock.

Limitation of Liability

Neither we nor the depositary will be liable if either is prevented or delayed by law or any circumstance beyond its control in performing its obligations. Our obligations and those of the depositary will be limited to performance in good faith of our and its duties thereunder. We and the depositary will not be obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding in respect of any depositary shares or preferred stock unless satisfactory indemnity is furnished. We and the depositary may rely upon written advice of counsel or accountants, on information provided by persons presenting preferred stock for deposit, holders of depositary receipts or other persons believed to be competent to give such information and on documents believed to be genuine and to have been signed or presented by the proper party or parties.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF PURCHASE CONTRACTS AND PURCHASE UNITS

We may issue purchase contracts, including contracts obligating holders to purchase from or sell to us, and obligating us to sell to or purchase from the holders, a specified number of shares of our common stock, preferred stock or depositary shares at a future date or dates, which we refer to in this prospectus as purchase contracts. The price per share of common stock, preferred stock or depositary shares and the number of shares of each may be fixed at the time the purchase contracts are issued or may be determined by reference to a specific formula set forth in the purchase contracts. The purchase contracts may be issued separately or as part of units, often known as purchase units, consisting of one or more purchase contracts and beneficial interests in:

debt securities,

debt obligations of third parties, including U.S. treasury securities, or

any other securities described in the applicable prospectus supplement or any combination of the foregoing, securing the holders obligations to purchase the common stock, preferred stock or depositary shares under the purchase contracts.

The purchase contracts may require us to make periodic payments to the holders of the purchase units or vice versa, and these payments may be unsecured or prefunded on some basis. The purchase contracts may require holders to secure their obligations under those contracts in a specified manner, including pledging their interest in another purchase contract.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the purchase contracts and purchase units, including, if applicable, collateral or depositary arrangements.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may issue warrants to purchase debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares or common stock. We may offer warrants separately or together with one or more additional warrants, debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares or common stock, or any combination of those securities in the form of units, as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. If we issue warrants as part of a unit, the accompanying prospectus supplement will specify whether those warrants may be separated from the other securities in the unit prior to the expiration date of the warrants. The applicable prospectus supplement will also describe the following terms of any warrants:

the specific designation and aggregate number of, and the offering price at which we will issue, the warrants;

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

the date on which the right to exercise the warrants will begin and the date on which that right will expire or, if you may not continuously exercise the warrants throughout that period, the specific date or dates on which you may exercise the warrants;

whether the warrants are to be sold separately or with other securities as parts of units;

whether the warrants will be issued in definitive or global form or in any combination of these forms, although, in any case, the form of a warrant included in a unit will correspond to the form of the unit and of any security included in that unit;

any applicable material U.S. federal income tax consequences;

the identity of the warrant agent for the warrants and of any other depositaries, execution or paying agents, transfer agents, registrars or other agents;

Table of Contents

the proposed listing, if any, of the warrants or any securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants on any securities exchange;

the designation and terms of any equity securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants;

the designation, aggregate principal amount, currency and terms of any debt securities that may be purchased upon exercise of the warrants;

if applicable, the designation and terms of the debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares or common stock with which the warrants are issued and the number of warrants issued with each security;

if applicable, the date from and after which any warrants issued as part of a unit and the related debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares or common stock will be separately transferable;

the number of shares of preferred stock, the number of depositary shares or the number of shares of common stock purchasable upon exercise of a warrant and the price at which those shares may be purchased;

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

information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any;

the antidilution provisions of, and other provisions for changes to or adjustment in the exercise price of, the warrants, if any;

any redemption or call provisions; and

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

FORMS OF SECURITIES

Each debt security, depositary share, purchase contract, purchase unit and warrant will be represented either by a certificate issued in definitive form to a particular investor or by one or more global securities representing the entire issuance of securities. Unless the applicable prospectus supplement provides otherwise, certificated securities in definitive form and global securities will be issued in registered form. Definitive securities name you or your nominee as the owner of the security, and in order to transfer or exchange these securities or to receive payments other than interest or other interim payments, you or your nominee must physically deliver the securities to the trustee, registrar, paying agent or other agent, as applicable. Global securities name a depositary or its nominee as the owner of the debt securities, depositary shares, purchase contracts, purchase units or warrants represented by these global securities. The depositary maintains a computerized system that will reflect each investor's beneficial ownership of the securities through an account maintained by the investor with its broker/dealer, bank, trust company or other representative, as we explain more fully below.

Registered Global Securities

We may issue the registered debt securities, depositary shares, purchase contracts, purchase units and warrants in the form of one or more fully registered global securities that will be deposited with a depositary or its nominee identified in the applicable prospectus supplement and registered in the name of that depositary or nominee. In those cases, one or more registered global securities will be issued in a denomination or aggregate denominations equal to the portion of the aggregate principal or face amount of the securities to be represented by registered global

securities. Unless and until it is exchanged in whole for securities in definitive registered form, a registered global security may not be transferred except as a whole by and among the depositary for the registered global security, the nominees of the depositary or any successors of the depositary or those nominees.

Table of Contents

Any specific terms of the depositary arrangement with respect to any securities to be represented by a registered global security will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to those securities. We anticipate that the following provisions will apply to all depositary arrangements.

Ownership of beneficial interests in a registered global security will be limited to persons, called participants, that have accounts with the depositary or persons that may hold interests through participants. Upon the issuance of a registered global security, the depositary will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the participants' accounts with the respective principal or face amounts of the securities beneficially owned by the participants. Any dealers, underwriters or agents participating in the distribution of the securities will designate the accounts to be credited. Ownership of beneficial interests in a registered global security will be shown on, and the transfer of ownership interests will be effected only through, records maintained by the depositary, with respect to interests of participants, and on the records of participants, with respect to interests of persons holding through participants. The laws of some states may require that some purchasers of securities take physical delivery of these securities in definitive form. These laws may impair your ability to own, transfer or pledge beneficial interests in registered global securities.

So long as the depositary, or its nominee, is the registered owner of a registered global security, that depositary or its nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner or holder of the securities represented by the registered global security for all purposes under the applicable indenture, purchase contract, warrant agreement or purchase unit agreement. Except as described below, owners of beneficial interests in a registered global security will not be entitled to have the securities represented by the registered global security registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of the securities in definitive form and will not be considered the owners or holders of the securities under the applicable indenture, depositary share agreement, purchase contract, purchase unit agreement or warrant agreement. Accordingly, each person owning a beneficial interest in a registered global security must rely on the procedures of the depositary for that registered global security and, if that person is not a participant, on the procedures of the participant through which the person owns its interest, to exercise any rights of a holder under the applicable indenture, depositary share agreement, purchase contract, purchase unit agreement or warrant agreement. We understand that under existing industry practices, if we request any action of holders or if an owner of a beneficial interest in a registered global security desires to give or take any action that a holder is entitled to give or take under the applicable indenture, depositary share agreement, purchase contract, purchase unit agreement or warrant agreement, the depositary for the registered global security would authorize the participants holding the relevant beneficial interests to give or take that action, and the participants would authorize beneficial owners owning through them to give or take that action or would otherwise act upon the instructions of beneficial owners holding through them.

Principal, premium, if any, and interest payments on debt securities, and any payments to holders with respect to warrants, purchase agreements or purchase units, represented by a registered global security registered in the name of a depositary or its nominee will be made to the depositary or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owner of the registered global security. None of us, the trustees, the warrant agents, the unit agents or any other agent of ours, agent of the trustees or agent of the warrant agents or unit agents will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in the registered global security or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to those beneficial ownership interests.

We expect that the depositary for any of the securities represented by a registered global security, upon receipt of any payment of principal, premium, interest or other distribution of underlying securities or other property to holders on that registered global security, will immediately credit participants' accounts in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in that registered global security as shown on the records of the depositary. We also expect that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in a registered global security held through participants will be governed by standing customer instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with the securities held for the accounts of customers or registered in street name, and will be the responsibility of those participants.

Table of Contents

If the depositary for any of the securities represented by a registered global security is at any time unwilling or unable to continue as depositary or ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act, and a successor depositary registered as a clearing agency under the Exchange Act is not appointed by us within 90 days, we will issue securities in definitive form in exchange for the registered global security that had been held by the depositary. Any securities issued in definitive form in exchange for a registered global security will be registered in the name or names that the depositary gives to the relevant trustee, warrant agent, unit agent or other relevant agent of ours or theirs. It is expected that the depositary's instructions will be based upon directions received by the depositary from participants with respect to ownership of beneficial interests in the registered global security that had been held by the depositary.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell securities:

through underwriters;

through dealers;

through agents;

directly to purchasers; or

through a combination of any of these methods of sale.

In addition, we may issue the securities as a dividend or distribution or in a subscription rights offering to our existing security holders.

We may directly solicit offers to purchase securities or agents may be designated to solicit such offers. We will, in the prospectus supplement relating to such offering, name any agent that could be viewed as an underwriter under the Securities Act and describe any commissions that we must pay. Any such agent will be acting on a best efforts basis for the period of its appointment or, if indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, on a firm commitment basis. This prospectus may be used in connection with any offering of our securities through any of these methods or other methods described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The distribution of the securities may be effected from time to time in one or more transactions:

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

at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;

at prices related to such prevailing market prices; or

at negotiated prices.

Each prospectus supplement will describe the method of distribution of the securities and any applicable restrictions.

The prospectus supplement with respect to the securities of a particular series will describe the terms of the offering of the securities, including the following:

the name of the agent or any underwriters;

the public offering or purchase price;

any discounts and commissions to be allowed or paid to the agent or underwriters;

all other items constituting underwriting compensation;

Table of Contents

any discounts and commissions to be allowed or paid to dealers; and

any exchanges on which the securities will be listed.

If any underwriters or agents are utilized in the sale of the securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered, we will enter into an underwriting agreement or other agreement with them at the time of sale to them, and we will set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to such offering the names of the underwriters or agents and the terms of the related agreement with them.

If a dealer is utilized in the sale of the securities in respect of which the prospectus is delivered, we will sell such securities to the dealer, as principal. The dealer may then resell such securities to the public at varying prices to be determined by such dealer at the time of resale.

If we offer securities in a subscription rights offering to our existing security holders, we may enter into a standby underwriting agreement with dealers, acting as standby underwriters. We may pay the standby underwriters a commitment fee for the securities they commit to purchase on a standby basis. If we do not enter into a standby underwriting arrangement, we may retain a dealer-manager to manage a subscription rights offering for us.

Agents, underwriters, dealers and other persons may be entitled under agreements which they may enter into with us 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.

If so indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will authorize underwriters or other persons acting as our agents to solicit offers by certain institutions to purchase securities from us pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on the date stated in the prospectus supplement. Each contract will be for an amount not less than, and the aggregate amount of securities sold pursuant to such contracts shall not be less nor more than, the respective amounts stated in the prospectus supplement. Institutions with whom the contracts, when authorized, may be made include commercial and savings banks, insurance companies, pension funds, investment companies, educational and charitable institutions and other institutions, but shall in all cases be subject to our approval. Delayed delivery contracts will not be subject to any conditions except that:

the purchase by an institution of the securities covered under that contract shall not at the time of delivery be prohibited under the laws of the jurisdiction to which that institution is subject; and

if the securities are also being sold to underwriters acting as principals for their own account, the underwriters shall have purchased such securities not sold for delayed delivery. The underwriters and other persons acting as our agents will not have any responsibility in respect of the validity or performance of delayed delivery contracts.

Certain agents, underwriters and dealers, and their associates and affiliates may be customers of, have borrowing relationships with, engage in other transactions with, and/or perform services, including investment banking services, for us or one or more of our respective affiliates in the ordinary course of business.

In order to facilitate the offering of the securities, any underwriters may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of the securities or any other securities the prices of which may be used to determine payments on such securities. Specifically, any underwriters may overallocate in connection with the offering, creating a short position for their own accounts. In addition, to cover overallocations or to stabilize the price of the securities or of any such other securities, the underwriters may bid for, and purchase, the securities or any such other securities in the open market. Finally, in any offering of the securities through a syndicate of underwriters, the underwriting syndicate may reclaim selling concessions allowed to an underwriter or a dealer for distributing the securities in the offering if the syndicate repurchases previously distributed securities in

Table of Contents

transactions to cover syndicate short positions, in stabilization transactions or otherwise. Any of these activities may stabilize or maintain the market price of the securities above independent market levels. Any such underwriters are not required to engage in these activities and may end any of these activities at any time.

Under Rule 15c6-1 of the Exchange Act, trades in the secondary market generally are required to settle in three business days, unless the parties to any such trade expressly agree otherwise. The applicable prospectus supplement may provide that the original issue date for your securities may be more than three scheduled business days after the trade date for your securities. Accordingly, in such a case, if you wish to trade securities on any date prior to the third business day before the original issue date for your securities, you will be required, by virtue of the fact that your securities initially are expected to settle in more than three scheduled business days after the trade date for your securities, to make alternative settlement arrangements to prevent a failed settlement.

The securities may be new issues of securities and may have no established trading market. The securities may or may not be listed on a national securities exchange. We can make no assurance as to the liquidity of or the existence of trading markets for any of the securities.

LEGAL MATTERS

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement indicates otherwise, the validity of the securities in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered will be passed upon by Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP.

EXPERTS

The financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

Table of Contents

\$2,200,000,000

Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.

Common Stock

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

J.P. Morgan

Barclays

BofA Merrill Lynch

, 2013