

AIR LEASE CORP
Form 8-K
March 19, 2012

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

**PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

March 13, 2012

Date of Report

(Date of earliest event reported)

AIR LEASE CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation)

001-35121

(Commission File Number)

27-1840403

(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

2000 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1000N

Los Angeles, California

(Address of principal executive offices)

90067

(Zip Code)

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Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(310) 553-0555**

Not Applicable

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report.)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

 - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Item 1.01. Entry into a Material Definitive Agreement.

Indenture for 5.625% Senior Notes due 2017

On March 16, 2012, Air Lease Corporation (the "Company") issued \$1.0 billion aggregate principal amount 5.625% senior unsecured notes due 2017 (the "Notes") pursuant to an indenture, dated as of March 16, 2012 (the "Indenture"), between the Company and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as trustee (the "Trustee"). The Notes were sold in an offering exempt from registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), only to qualified institutional buyers and non-U.S. persons outside of the United States in reliance upon Rule 144A and Regulation S, respectively, under the Securities Act. The Company intends to use the proceeds of the offering to fund the acquisition of commercial aircraft and for other general corporate purposes.

The Notes will mature on April 1, 2017 and will bear interest at a rate of 5.625% per annum, payable semi-annually in arrears on April 1 and October 1 of each year, commencing on October 1, 2012. At any time prior to April 1, 2015, the Company may redeem up to 40% of the aggregate principal amount of the Notes with the proceeds of certain equity offerings at a redemption price of 105.625% of the principal amount of the Notes, together with accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the date of redemption. In addition, at any time prior to April 1, 2017, the Company may redeem some or all of the Notes at a price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the Notes plus a "make-whole premium" as described in the Indenture, together with accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the date of redemption. Upon the occurrence of a change of control of the Company as defined in the Indenture, holders of the Notes will have the right to cause the Company to repurchase some or all of the Notes at 101% of the principal amount of the Notes, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the date of redemption. The Notes will bear additional interest of 0.5% per annum during any period from and after March 16, 2013 during which a publicly available rating on the Notes is not maintained by at least one rating agency described in the Indenture. In addition, under certain circumstances where the Company has failed to comply with the registration and exchange requirements set forth in the Registration Rights Agreement (as defined below), the Company will be required to pay additional interest to the holders of the Notes as described below.

The Notes are senior unsecured obligations of the Company. The Notes (i) rank senior in right of payment to all of the Company's future subordinated indebtedness; (ii) rank equally in right of payment with all of the Company's existing and future senior indebtedness; (iii) are effectively subordinated to any of the Company's existing and future secured indebtedness, to the extent of the value of the assets securing such indebtedness; and (iv) are structurally subordinated to all of the existing and future indebtedness and other liabilities (including trade payables) of each of the Company's subsidiaries.

The Indenture contains financial maintenance covenants relating to the Company's consolidated net worth, consolidated unencumbered assets and interest coverage. In addition, the Indenture contains covenants that, among other things, (x) limit the ability of the Company and the ability of the Company's subsidiaries to pay dividends on or repurchase certain equity interests, prepay subordinated obligations, alter their lines of business and engage in affiliate transactions; (y) limit the ability of the Company's subsidiaries to incur unsecured indebtedness; and (z) limit the ability of the Company and the ability of each Note guarantor subsidiary, if any, to consolidate, merge or sell all or substantially all of its assets. These covenants are subject to a number of important exceptions and qualifications set forth in the Indenture, including the suspension of the interest coverage test and the limitation on the payment of dividends on or repurchases of certain equity interests and prepayments of subordinated indebtedness at such time as the Notes are rated investment grade as defined in the Indenture.

The Notes were not guaranteed by any of the Company's subsidiaries on the date the Notes were issued. However, the Notes will be required to be guaranteed on a senior unsecured basis by any of the Company's existing and future direct and indirect subsidiaries that guarantee certain of the Company's indebtedness. Thereafter, under certain circumstances, subsidiary guarantors may be released from their Note guarantees without the consent of the holders of the Notes. The Note guarantees, if any, would be the senior unsecured obligations of the Company's subsidiaries that guaranty the Notes.

Events of default under the Indenture include, among others, the following (subject in certain cases to grace and cure periods): nonpayment, breach of covenants in the Indenture, payment default or acceleration of certain other indebtedness, failure to pay certain judgments and certain events of bankruptcy and insolvency. Generally, if an event of default occurs other than due to certain events of bankruptcy or insolvency, the Trustee or holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the then outstanding Notes may declare the principal of and accrued but unpaid interest on all the Notes to be due and payable. In the case of an event of default arising from certain events of bankruptcy or insolvency with respect to the Company, any significant subsidiary of the Company or any group of subsidiaries of the Company that, taken together, would constitute a significant subsidiary, the principal of and accrued but unpaid interest on all Notes then outstanding would become due and payable immediately without further action or notice.

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The foregoing description is not complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the complete text of the Indenture filed as Exhibit 4.1 hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

Registration Rights Agreement for 5.625% Senior Notes due 2017

On March 16, 2012, in connection with the issuance of the Notes, the Company entered into a registration rights agreement (the "Registration Rights Agreement"), with J.P. Morgan Securities LLC.

Pursuant to the Registration Rights Agreement, the Company agreed to use commercially reasonable efforts to (1) file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") a registration statement with respect to a registered offer to exchange the Notes for new notes with terms substantially identical in all material respects to the Notes (except that the exchange notes will not contain terms with respect to transfer restrictions or any increase in annual interest rate) and (2) cause the registration statement to be declared effective under the Securities Act. In the event that the Company determines that a registered exchange offer is not available or may not be completed because it would violate any applicable law or applicable interpretations of the staff of the SEC or if the exchange offer is not for any other reason completed by December 11, 2012 or if under certain circumstances J.P. Morgan Securities LLC so requests, the Company agreed to use commercially reasonable efforts to file and to have become effective a shelf registration statement relating to resales of the Notes and to keep that shelf registration statement effective until the date that the Notes cease to be registrable securities or the date that is 365 days after the shelf registration statement initially became effective, whichever period is shorter. Under certain circumstances where the Company has failed to comply with the registration and exchange requirements set forth in the Registration Rights Agreement (including failing to complete the exchange offer on or prior to December 11, 2012), the Company will be required to pay additional interest to the holders of the Notes that may in no event exceed 1.00% per annum.

The foregoing description is not complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the complete text of the Registration Rights Agreement filed as Exhibit 4.2 hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, J.P. Morgan Securities LLC and their respective affiliates have provided in the past to the Company and its affiliates, and may provide to the Company and its affiliates from time to time in the future, certain commercial banking, financial advisory, investment banking and other services in the ordinary course of business, for which they have received and may receive customary payments of interest, fees and commissions.

Item 2.03. Creation of a Direct Financial Obligation or an Obligation under an Off-Balance Sheet Arrangement of a Registrant.

The information set forth in Item 1.01 of this Current Report of Form 8-K is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 8.01. Other Events.

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The Company issued press releases announcing the pricing of the Notes and the closing of the offering of the Notes on March 13, 2012 and March 16, 2012, respectively. Copies of these press releases are filed as Exhibits 99.1 and 99.2 hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) *Exhibits*

Exhibit 4.1 Indenture, dated as of March 16, 2012, between Air Lease Corporation and Deutsche Bank Trust CompanyAmericas, as trustee.

Exhibit 4.2 Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of March 16, 2012, by and between Air Lease Corporation and J.P. Morgan Securities LLC.

Exhibit 99.1 Press Release dated March 13, 2012.

Exhibit 99.2 Press Release dated March 16, 2012.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

AIR LEASE CORPORATION

Date: March 19, 2012

/s/ Gregory B. Willis
Gregory B. Willis
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

- 4.1 Indenture, dated as of March 16, 2012, between Air Lease Corporation and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as trustee.
- 4.2 Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of March 16, 2012, between Air Lease Corporation and J.P. Morgan Securities LLC.
- 99.1 Press Release dated March 13, 2012.
- 99.2 Press Release dated March 16, 2012.