Stellus Capital Investment Corp Form 497 April 04, 2017

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The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement is not complete and may be changed. A registration statement relating to these securities has been filed with and declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not an offer to sell and are not soliciting offers to buy these securities in any state where such offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED APRIL 4, 2017

PRELIMINARY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT (to Prospectus dated April 3, 2017)

3,000,000 Shares

Stellus Capital Investment Corporation Common Stock

We are offering for sale 3,000,000 shares of our common stock. The underwriters have agreed to purchase shares of our common stock from us at a price of \$ per share which will result in approximately \$ million of net proceeds, after deducting estimated offering expenses, to us, or \$ million assuming full exercise of the underwriters option to purchase additional shares described below. We expect that our expenses for this offering will be approximately \$135,000.

The underwriters may also exercise their option to purchase up to an additional 450,000 shares of common stock from us, at the price per share set forth above, for 30 days after the date of this prospectus supplement.

We are an externally managed, closed-end, non-diversified management investment company that has elected to be regulated as a business development company, or BDC, under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, or the 1940 Act. Our investment objective is to maximize the total return to our stockholders in the form of current income and capital appreciation through debt and related equity investments in middle-market companies. The companies in which we invest are typically highly leveraged, and, in most cases, our investments in such companies will not be rated by national rating agencies. If such investments were rated, we believe that they would likely receive a rating below investment grade (i.e., below BBB or Baa), which are often referred to as junk.

We are an emerging growth company under the federal securities laws and are subject to reduced public company reporting requirements. We will no longer qualify as an emerging growth company during our fiscal year ending December 31, 2017.

Common Stock 1

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, or NYSE, under the trading symbol SCM. The last sale price, as reported on NYSE on April 3, 2017, was \$14.55 per share. The net asset value per share of our common stock at December 31, 2016 (the last date prior to the date of this prospectus supplement on which we determined net asset value) was \$13.69.

Shares of closed-end investment companies, including business development companies, frequently trade at a discount to their net asset value. If our shares trade at a discount to our net asset value, it will likely increase the risk of loss for purchasers in this offering.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, contain important information about us that a prospective investor should know before investing in our common stock. Please read this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus before you invest and keep it for future reference. We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information about us with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC. The SEC also maintains a website at http://www.sec.gov that contains such information. This information is also available free of charge by contacting us at 4400 Post Oak Parkway, Suite 2200, Houston, TX 77027, Attention: Investor Relations, or by calling us collect at (713) 292-5400 or on our website at www.stelluscapital.com. Information contained on our website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus, and you should not consider that information to be part of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. Before buying any shares, you should read the discussion of the material risks of investing in our common stock in Risk Factors beginning on page 17 of the accompanying prospectus.

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

Per Share Total
Public offering price

Underwriting discount (%)
Proceeds to us before expenses (1)

(1) Before deducting estimated expenses payable by us of approximately \$135,000. The underwriters have the option to purchase up to an additional 450,000 shares of common stock at the public offering price, less the underwriting discount, within 30 days from the date of this prospectus supplement. If the option is exercised in full, the total public offering price will be \$, and the total underwriting discount (%) will be \$. The proceeds to us would be \$, before deducting estimated expenses payable by us of \$135,000.

RAYMOND JAMES

Keefe, Bruyette & Woods A Stifel Company

The date of this prospectus supplement is April , 2017

Common Stock 2

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prospectus Supplement

	Page
PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY	<u>S-1</u>
THE OFFERING	<u>S-9</u>
FEES AND EXPENSES	<u>S-11</u>
SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS	<u>S-14</u>
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	<u>S-15</u>
<u>CAPITALIZATION</u>	<u>S-16</u>
<u>UNDERWRITING</u>	<u>S-17</u>
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	<u>S-21</u>
INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM	<u>S-21</u>
AVAILABLE INFORMATION	<u>S-21</u>
Drochactus	
Prospectus	
PROSPECTUS SUMMARY	1
THE OFFERING	<u>1</u> 9
FEES AND EXPENSES	<u>13</u>
SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA	15 16
RISK FACTORS	10 17
SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS	46
USE OF PROCEEDS	47
PRICE RANGE OF COMMON STOCK AND DISTRIBUTIONS	48
RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES	<u>51</u>
MANAGEMENT S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND	
RESULTS OF OPERATIONS	<u>52</u>
SENIOR SECURITIES	<u>68</u>
THE COMPANY	<u>69</u>
PORTFOLIO COMPANIES	<u>82</u>
MANAGEMENT	<u>91</u>
MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS	100
RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS AND CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS	109
CONTROL PERSONS AND PRINCIPAL STOCKHOLDERS	111
DETERMINATION OF NET ASSET VALUE	113
SALES OF COMMON STOCK BELOW NET ASSET VALUE	116
DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT PLAN	121
MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS	123
DESCRIPTION OF OUR COMMON STOCK	130
DESCRIPTION OF OUR PREFERRED STOCK	136
DESCRIPTION OF OUR SUBSCRIPTION RIGHTS	137
DESCRIPTION OF OUR DERT SECURITIES	130

Prospectus 3

S-i

Prospectus 4

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DESCRIPTION OF OUR WARRANTS	<u>152</u>
REGULATION	<u>154</u>
PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION	<u>159</u>
CUSTODIAN, TRANSFER AND DIVIDEND PAYING AGENT AND REGISTRAR	<u>160</u>
BROKERAGE ALLOCATION AND OTHER PRACTICES	<u>160</u>
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	<u>160</u>
INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM	<u>161</u>
AVAILABLE INFORMATION	<u>161</u>
INDEX TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	<u>F-1</u>

YOU SHOULD RELY ONLY ON THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT AND THE ACCOMPANYING PROSPECTUS. WE HAVE NOT, AND THE UNDERWRITERS HAVE NOT, AUTHORIZED ANY OTHER PERSON TO PROVIDE YOU WITH DIFFERENT OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. IF ANYONE PROVIDES YOU WITH DIFFERENT OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, YOU SHOULD NOT RELY ON IT. WE ARE NOT, AND THE UNDERWRITERS ARE NOT, MAKING AN OFFER TO SELL THESE SECURITIES IN ANY JURISDICTION WHERE THE OFFER OR SALE IS NOT PERMITTED. YOU SHOULD ASSUME THAT THE INFORMATION APPEARING IN THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT AND THE ACCOMPANYING PROSPECTUS IS ACCURATE ONLY AS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE DATES, REGARDLESS OF THE TIME OF DELIVERY OF THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT AND THE ACCOMPANYING PROSPECTUS OR ANY SALES OF THE SECURITIES. OUR BUSINESS, FINANCIAL CONDITION, RESULTS OF OPERATIONS AND PROSPECTS MAY HAVE CHANGED SINCE THOSE DATES.

S-ii

Prospectus 5

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of this offering and certain matters relating to us. The second part, the accompanying prospectus, gives more general information about the securities which we may offer from time to time, some of which may not apply to the common stock offered by this prospectus supplement. For information about our common stock, see Description of Our Capital Stock in the accompanying prospectus.

If information varies between this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, you should rely only on such information in this prospectus supplement. The information contained in this prospectus supplement supersedes any inconsistent information included in the accompanying prospectus. In various places in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, we refer you to other sections of such documents for additional information by indicating the caption heading of such other sections. The page on which each principal caption included in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus can be found is listed in the table of contents above. All such cross references in this prospectus supplement are to captions contained in this prospectus supplement and not in the accompanying prospectus, unless otherwise stated.

S-iii

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY

This summary highlights some of the information in this prospectus. It is not complete and may not contain all of the information that you may want to consider. You should read the more detailed information set forth under Risk Factors and the other information included in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement carefully. Except as otherwise indicated, the terms we, us, our, and the Company refer to Stellus Capital Investment Corporation; and Stellus Capital Management refers to our investment adviser and administrator, Stellus Capital Management, LLC.

Stellus Capital Investment Corporation

We are an externally managed, closed-end, non-diversified management investment company that has elected to be regulated as a BDC under the 1940 Act. We originate and invest primarily in private middle-market companies (typically those with \$5.0 million to \$50.0 million of EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization)) through first lien, second lien, unitranche and mezzanine debt financing, with corresponding equity co-investments. Unitranche debt is typically structured as first lien loans with certain risk characteristics of second lien debt. Mezzanine debt includes senior unsecured and subordinated loans.

Our investment activities are managed by our investment adviser, Stellus Capital Management, an investment advisory firm led by Robert T. Ladd and its other senior investment professionals. We source investments primarily through the extensive network of relationships that the senior investment professionals of Stellus Capital Management have developed with financial sponsor firms, financial institutions, middle-market companies, management teams and other professional intermediaries. The companies in which we invest are typically highly leveraged, and, in most cases, our investments in such companies will not be rated by national rating agencies. If such investments were rated, we believe that they would likely receive a rating which is often referred to as junk.

Our investment objective is to maximize the total return to our stockholders in the form of current income and capital appreciation. We seek to achieve our investment objective by:

accessing the extensive origination channels that have been developed and established by the Stellus Capital Management investment team that include long-standing relationships with private equity firms, commercial banks, investment banks and other financial services firms;

investing in what we believe to be companies with strong business fundamentals, generally within our core middle-market company focus;

focusing on a variety of industry sectors, including business services, energy, general industrial, government services, healthcare, software and specialty finance;

focusing primarily on directly originated transactions;

applying the disciplined underwriting standards that the Stellus Capital Management investment team has developed over their extensive investing careers; and

capitalizing upon the experience and resources of the Stellus Capital Management investment team to monitor our investments.

In addition, we received exemptive relief from the SEC to co-invest with investment funds managed by Stellus Capital Management where doing so is consistent with our investment strategy as well as applicable law (including the terms and conditions of the exemptive order issued by the SEC). Under the terms of the relief permitting us to co-invest with other funds managed by Stellus Capital Management, a required majority (as defined in Section 57(o) of the 1940 Act) of our independent directors must make certain conclusions in connection with a co-investment transaction,

including that (1) the terms of the proposed transaction, including the consideration to be paid, are reasonable and fair to us and our stockholders and do not involve overreaching of us

S-1

or our stockholders on the part of any person concerned and (2) the transaction is consistent with the interests of our stockholders and is consistent with our investment objectives and strategies. We intend to co-invest, subject to the conditions included in the exemptive order we received from the SEC, with private credit funds managed by Stellus Capital Management that have an investment strategy that is identical to our investment strategy. We believe that such co-investments may afford us additional investment opportunities and an ability to achieve greater diversification.

As a BDC, we are required to comply with regulatory requirements, including limitations on our use of debt. We are permitted to, and expect to continue to, finance our investments through borrowings. However, as a BDC, we are only generally allowed to borrow amounts such that our asset coverage, as defined in the 1940 Act, equals at least 200% after such borrowing. The amount of leverage that we employ will depend on our assessment of market conditions and other factors at the time of any proposed borrowing, such as the maturity, covenant package and rate structure of the proposed borrowings, our ability to raise funds through the issuance of our securities and the risks of such borrowings within the context of our investment outlook. Ultimately, we only intend to use leverage if the expected returns from borrowing to make investments will exceed the cost of such borrowings.

We have elected and qualified to be treated for federal income tax purposes as a regulated investment company, or RIC, under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code, or the Code. As a RIC, we generally will not have to pay corporate-level federal income taxes on any net ordinary income or capital gains that we distribute to our stockholders if we meet certain source-of-income, distribution and asset diversification requirements.

SBIC License

Our wholly owned subsidiary holds a license from the Small Business Administration, or SBA, to operate as a small business investment company, or SBIC. Our wholly-owned SBIC subsidiary s SBIC license allows it to obtain leverage by issuing SBA-guaranteed debentures up to a maximum of \$150 million under current SBIC regulations, subject to required capitalization of the SBIC subsidiary and other requirements. As of December 31, 2016, the SBIC subsidiary had \$38.0 million of regulatory capital as such term is defined by the SBA, and has received commitments from the SBA of \$65 million. As of December 31, 2016, the SBIC subsidiary had \$65 million of SBA-guaranteed debentures outstanding. The principal amount of SBA-guaranteed debentures is not required to be paid prior to maturity but may be prepaid at any time without penalty. The interest rate of SBA-guaranteed debentures is fixed at the time of issuance at a market-driven spread over U.S. Treasury Notes with ten-year maturities. We believe that the SBA-guaranteed debentures are an attractive source of debt capital.

We have received exemptive relief from the SEC to permit us to exclude the debt of our SBIC subsidiary guaranteed by the SBA from the definition of senior securities in the 200% asset coverage ratio we are required to maintain under the 1940 Act. The exemptive relief provides us with increased flexibility under the 200% asset coverage test by permitting us to borrow up to \$76.0 million (based on current regulatory capital, as such term is defined by the SBA, of \$38.0 million) more than we would otherwise be able to absent the receipt of this exemptive relief.

Portfolio Composition

Our investments generally range in size from \$5 million to \$30 million, and we may also selectively invest in larger positions, and we generally expect that the size of our positions will increase in proportion to the size of our capital base. Pending such investments, we may reduce our outstanding indebtedness or invest in cash, cash equivalents, U.S. government securities and other high-quality debt investments with a maturity of one year or less. In the future, we may adjust opportunistically the percentage of our assets held in various types of loans, our principal loan sources and the industries to which we have greatest exposure, based on market conditions, the credit cycle, available financing

SBIC License 9

S-2

Portfolio Composition 10

The following table provides a summary of our portfolio investments as of December 31, 2016:

		As	of	
		December		
		31,		
		201	16	
		(\$ i	in	
		mil	llions)
Number of portfolio compar	nies	4	15	
Fair value (a)		\$ 3	365.6	
Cost		\$ 3	362.2	
% of portfolio at fair value	first lien debt	3	31	%
% of portfolio at fair value	second lien debt	4	15	%
% of portfolio at fair value	mezzanine debt	1	9	%
% of portfolio at fair value	equity	5	5	%
Weighted-average annual yie	eld (b)	1	1.0	%

As of December 31, 2016, \$266.1 million of our debt investments at fair value were at floating interest rates, which represented approximately 77% of our total portfolio of debt investments at fair value. As of December 31, 2016, \$80.6 million of our debt investments at fair value were at fixed interest rates, which represented approximately 23% of our total portfolio of debt investments at fair value.

The weighted average yield on all of our debt investments as of December 31, 2016, was approximately 11.0%, of which approximately 10.5% was current cash interest. The weighted average yield of our debt investments is not the same as a return on investment for our stockholders but, rather, relates to a portion of our investment portfolio and is calculated before the payment of all of our and our subsidiaries fees and expenses. The weighted average yield was computed using the effective interest rates for all of our debt investments, which represents the interest rate on our debt investment restated as an interest rate payable annually in arrears and is computed including cash and payment in kind, or PIK interest, as well as accretion of original issue discount. There can be no assurance that the weighted average yield will remain at their current level.

(c) Includes unitranche investments, which account for 8% of our portfolio at fair value.

Leverage

Credit Facility. On November 7, 2012, we entered into a revolving credit facility (the Credit Facility) with various lenders. SunTrust Bank, one of the lenders, serves as administrative agent under the Credit Facility. The Credit Facility, as amended on November 21, 2014 and August 31, 2016, provides for borrowings in an aggregate amount of \$120.0 million on a committed basis with an accordion feature that allows us to increase the aggregate commitments up to \$195.0 million, subject to new or existing lenders agreeing to participate in the increase and other customary conditions. Borrowings under the Credit Facility bear interest, subject to our election, on a per annum basis equal to (i) LIBOR plus 2.625% with no LIBOR floor or (ii) 1.625% plus an alternate base rate based on the highest of the Prime Rate, Federal Funds Rate plus 0.5% or one month LIBOR plus 1.0%. We pay unused commitment fees of 0.50% per annum on the unused lender commitments under the Credit Facility. Interest is payable quarterly in arrears. Any amounts borrowed under the Credit Facility will mature, and all accrued and unpaid interest thereunder will be due and payable, on October 1, 2018.

6.50% Notes. On May 5, 2014, we closed a public offering of \$25.0 million in aggregate principal amount of 6.50% Notes (the Notes). The Notes mature on April 30, 2019, and may be redeemed in whole or in part at any time or from

Leverage 11

time to time at our option on or after April 30, 2016. The Notes bear interest at a rate of 6.50% per year payable quarterly on February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15, of each year. As of December 31, 2016, we had \$25.0 million of the Notes outstanding.

SBA-guaranteed Debentures. Due to the SBIC subsidiary s status as a licensed SBIC, we have the ability to issue debentures guaranteed by the SBA at favorable interest rates. As of December 31, 2016, the SBIC subsidiary had \$65.0 million of SBA-guaranteed debentures outstanding.

S-3

Leverage 12

Stellus Capital Management

Stellus Capital Management manages our investment activities and is responsible for analyzing investment opportunities, conducting research and performing due diligence on potential investments, negotiating and structuring our investments, originating prospective investments and monitoring our investments and portfolio companies on an ongoing basis.

The senior investment professionals of Stellus Capital Management have an average of over 27 years of investing, corporate finance, restructuring, consulting and accounting experience and have worked together at several companies. The Stellus Capital Management investment team has a wide range of experience in middle-market investing, including originating, structuring and managing loans and debt securities through market cycles. The Stellus Capital Management investment team continues to provide investment sub-advisory services to D. E. Shaw & Co., L.P. and its associated investment funds (the D. E. Shaw group) with respect to an approximately \$150.0 million investment portfolio as of December 31, 2016 in middle-market companies pursuant to sub-advisory arrangements.

In addition to serving as our investment adviser and the sub-advisor to the D. E. Shaw group as noted above, Stellus Capital Management currently manages a private credit fund that has an investment strategy that is identical to our investment strategy and energy private equity funds. We received exemptive relief from the SEC to co-invest with investment funds managed by Stellus Capital Management (other than the D. E. Shaw group funds) where doing so is consistent with our investment strategy as well as applicable law (including the terms and conditions of the exemptive order issued by the SEC). We believe that such co-investments may afford us additional investment opportunities and an ability to achieve greater diversification. We will not co-invest with the energy private equity funds, as the energy private equity funds focus on predominantly equity-related investments, and we focus on predominantly credit-related investments.

Stellus Capital Management is headquartered in Houston, Texas, and also maintains offices in the Washington, D.C. area and Charlotte, North Carolina.

Market Opportunity

We originate and invest primarily in private middle-market companies through first lien, second lien, unitranche and mezzanine debt financing, often times with a corresponding equity investment. We believe the environment for investing in middle-market companies is attractive for several reasons, including:

Robust Demand for Debt Capital. We believe that private equity firms have significant committed but uncalled capital, a large portion of which is still available for investment in the United States. We expect the large amount of uninvested capital commitments will drive buyout activity over the next several years, which should, in turn, create lending opportunities for us. In addition to increased buyout activity, a high volume of senior secured and high yield debt was originated in the calendar years 2004 through 2007 and will come due in the near term and, accordingly, we believe that new financing opportunities will increase as many companies seek to refinance this indebtedness.

Reduced Availability of Capital for Middle-Market Companies. We believe there are fewer providers of, and less capital available for financing to middle-market companies, as compared to the time period prior to the recent economic downturn. We believe that, as a result of that downturn, many financing providers have chosen to focus on large, liquid corporate loans and managing capital markets transactions rather than lending to middle-market businesses. In addition, we believe recent regulatory changes, including the adoption of the Dodd-Frank Act and the introduction of the international capital and liquidity requirements under the Basel III Accords have caused banks to

curtail their lending to middle-market-companies. As a result, we believe that less competition will facilitate higher quality deal flow and allow for greater selectivity throughout the investment process.

S-4

Market Opportunity 14

Attractive Deal Pricing and Structures. We believe that the pricing of middle-market debt investments is higher, and the terms of such investments are more conservative, compared to larger liquid, public debt financings, due to the more limited universe of lenders as well as the highly negotiated nature of these financings. These transactions tend to offer stronger covenant packages, higher interest rates, lower leverage levels and better call protection compared to larger financings. In addition, middle-market loans typically offer other investor protections such as default penalties, lien protection, change of control provisions and information rights for lenders.

Specialized Lending Requirements. Lending to middle-market companies requires in-depth diligence, credit expertise, restructuring experience and active portfolio management. We believe that several factors render many U.S. financial institutions ill-suited to lend to middle-market companies. For example, based on the experience of Stellus Capital Management s investment team, lending to middle-market companies in the United States (a) is generally more labor intensive than lending to larger companies due to the smaller size of each investment and the fragmented nature of the information available with respect to such companies, (b) requires specialized due diligence and underwriting capabilities, and (c) may also require more extensive ongoing monitoring by the lender. We believe that, through Stellus Capital Management, we have the experience and expertise to meet these specialized lending requirements.

Competitive Strengths

We believe that the following competitive strengths will allow us to achieve positive returns for our investors:

Experienced Investment Team. Through our investment adviser, Stellus Capital Management, we have access to the experience and expertise of the Stellus Capital Management investment team, including its senior investment professionals who have an average of over 27 years of investing, corporate finance, restructuring, consulting and accounting experience and have worked together at several companies. The Stellus Capital Management investment team has a wide range of experience in middle-market investing, including originating, structuring and managing loans and debt securities through market cycles. We believe the members of Stellus Capital Management s investment team are proven and experienced, with extensive capabilities in leveraged credit investing, having participated in these markets for the predominant portion of their careers. We believe that the experience and demonstrated ability of the Stellus Capital Management investment team to complete transactions enhances the quantity and quality of investment opportunities available to us.

Established, Rigorous Investment and Monitoring Process. The Stellus Capital Management investment team has developed an extensive review and credit analysis process. Each investment that is reviewed by Stellus Capital Management is brought through a structured, multi-stage approval process. In addition, Stellus Capital Management takes an active approach in monitoring all investments, including reviews of financial performance on at least a quarterly basis and regular discussions with management. Stellus Capital Management s investment and monitoring process and the depth and experience of its investment team should allow it to conduct the type of due diligence and monitoring that enables it to identify and evaluate risks and opportunities.

Demonstrated Ability to Structure Investments Creatively. Stellus Capital Management has the expertise and ability to structure investments across all levels of a company s capital structure. Furthermore, we believe that current market conditions will allow us to structure attractively priced debt investments and may allow us to incorporate other return-enhancing mechanisms such as commitment fees, original issue discounts, early redemption premiums, PIK, interest or some form of equity securities.

Resources of Stellus Capital Management Platform. We have access to the resources and capabilities of Stellus Capital Management, which has 18 investment professionals, including Robert T. Ladd, Dean D. Angelo, Joshua T.

Davis and Todd A. Overbergen, who are supported by six managing directors, two principals, two vice presidents and three analysts. These individuals

S-5

have developed long-term relationships with middle-market companies, management teams, financial sponsors, lending institutions and deal intermediaries by providing flexible financing throughout the capital structure. We believe that these relationships provide us with a competitive advantage in identifying investment opportunities in our target market. We also expect to benefit from Stellus Capital Management s due diligence, credit analysis, origination and transaction execution experience and capabilities, including the support provided with respect to those functions by Mr. Huskinson, who serves as our chief financial officer and chief compliance officer, and his staff of eight finance and operations professionals.

Risk Factors

An investment in our securities is subject to risks. The following is a summary of the principal risks that you should carefully consider before investing in our securities. In addition, see Risk Factors beginning on page 17 of the accompanying prospectus to read about factors you should consider before deciding to invest in our securities.

We are dependent upon key personnel of Stellus Capital Management for our future success. If Stellus Capital Management were to lose any of its key personnel, our ability to achieve our investment objective could be significantly harmed.

Our business model depends to a significant extent upon strong referral relationships. Any inability of Stellus Capital Management to maintain or develop these relationships, or the failure of these relationships to generate investment opportunities, could adversely affect our business.

Our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows will depend on our ability to manage our business effectively.

There are significant potential conflicts of interest that could negatively affect our investment returns. The incentive fee structure we have with Stellus Capital Management may create incentives that are not fully aligned with the interests of our stockholders.

We will be subject to corporate-level income tax and may default under the Credit Facility if we are unable to maintain our qualification as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code.

Regulations governing our operation as a BDC affect our ability to and the way in which we raise additional capital and, as a BDC, the necessity of raising additional capital may expose us to risks, including the typical risks associated with leverage.

Because we finance our investments with borrowed money, the potential for gain or loss on amounts invested in us is magnified and may increase the risk of investing in us.

Because we use debt to finance our investments, changes in interest rates will affect our cost of capital and net investment income.

Adverse developments in the credit markets may impair our ability to borrow money.

Most of our portfolio investments are recorded at fair value as determined in good faith by our board of directors and, as a result, there may be uncertainty as to the value of our portfolio investments.

Our ability to enter into transactions with our affiliates will be restricted, which may limit the scope of investments available to us.

The involvement of our interested directors in the valuation process may create conflicts of interest.

There are conflicts related to other arrangements with Stellus Capital Management.

If we fail to maintain our status as a BDC, our business and operating flexibility could be significantly reduced. S-6

Risk Factors 17

Pending legislation may allow us to incur additional leverage.

The effect of global climate change may impact the operations of our portfolio companies.

Existing stockholders may incur dilution if, in the future, we sell shares of our common stock in one or more offerings at prices below the then current net asset value per share of our common stock.

Conflicts of Interests

We may have conflicts of interest arising out of the investment advisory activities of Stellus Capital Management, including those described below.

Our investment strategy includes investments in secured debt (including first lien, second lien and unitranche) and mezzanine debt (including senior unsecured and subordinated debt), as well as related equity securities of private middle-market companies. Stellus Capital Management also manages, and in the future may manage, other investment funds, accounts or investment vehicles that invest or may invest in assets eligible for purchase by us. For example, Stellus Capital Management currently manages private credit funds that have an investment strategy that is identical to our investment strategy. Stellus Capital Management also provides non-discretionary advisory services to the D. E. Shaw group, pursuant to sub-advisory arrangements, with respect to a private investment fund and a strategy of a private multi-strategy investment fund (collectively with the D. E. Shaw group fund, the D. E. Shaw group funds) to which the D. E. Shaw group serves as investment adviser that have an investment strategy similar to our investment strategy. Our investment policies, fee arrangements and other circumstances may vary from those of other investment funds, accounts or investment vehicles managed by Stellus Capital Management.

We have received exemptive relief from the SEC to co-invest with investment funds managed by Stellus Capital Management (other than the D. E. Shaw group funds, where doing so is consistent with our investment strategy as well as applicable law (including the terms and conditions of the exemptive order issued by the SEC). Under the terms of the relief permitting us to co-invest with other funds managed by Stellus Capital Management, a required majority (as defined in Section 57(o) of the 1940 Act) of our independent directors must make certain conclusions in connection with a co-investment transaction, including that (1) the terms of the proposed transaction, including the consideration to be paid, are reasonable and fair to us and our stockholders and do not involve overreaching of us or our stockholders on the part of any person concerned and (2) the transaction is consistent with the interests of our stockholders and is consistent with our investment objectives and strategies. We intend to co-invest, subject to the conditions included in the exemptive order we received from the SEC, with the private credit funds managed by Stellus Capital Management that have an investment strategy that is identical to our investment strategy. We believe that such co-investments may afford us additional investment opportunities and an ability to achieve greater diversification.

In the course of our investing activities, we pay management and incentive fees to Stellus Capital Management. We have entered into an investment advisory agreement with Stellus Capital Management that provides that these fees are based on the value of our gross assets. Because these fees are based on the value of our gross assets, Stellus Capital Management will benefit when we incur debt or use leverage. This fee structure may encourage Stellus Capital Management to cause us to borrow money to finance additional investments. Our board of directors is charged with protecting our interests by monitoring how Stellus Capital Management addresses these and other conflicts of interests associated with its management services and compensation. While our board of directors is not expected to review or approve each investment decision, borrowing or incurrence of leverage, our independent directors will periodically review Stellus Capital Management services and fees as well as its portfolio management decisions and portfolio performance. See Risk Factors The incentive fee structure we have with Stellus Capital Management may create incentives that are not fully aligned with the interests of our stockholders in the accompanying prospectus.

Conflicts of Interests 18

Conflicts of Interests 19

Stellus Capital Management may from time to time incur expenses in connection with investments to be made on our behalf and on behalf of other investment funds, accounts and investment vehicles managed by Stellus Capital Management. Stellus Capital Management will allocate such expenses on a pro rata basis according to the participation in a transaction, subject to oversight by our board of directors.

Corporate Information

Our principal executive offices are located at 4400 Post Oak Parkway, Suite 2200, Houston, TX 77027, and our telephone number is (713) 292-5400. We maintain a website located at *www.stelluscapital.com* (under the Public Investors section). Information on our website is not incorporated into or a part of this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement and you should not consider information on our website to be part of this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus.

We are an emerging growth company, as defined in the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act of 2012, or the JOBS Act. As an emerging growth company, we may take advantage of specified reduced disclosure and other requirements that are otherwise applicable generally to public companies. We will remain an emerging growth company until the earlier of (a) the last day of the fiscal year (i) following the fifth anniversary of the completion of our initial public offering on November 13, 2012, (ii) in which we have total annual gross revenue of at least \$1.0 billion, or (iii) in which we are deemed to be a large accelerated filer, which means the market value of our common stock that is held by non-affiliates exceeds \$700 million as of the prior June 30th, and (b) the date on which we have issued more than \$1.0 billion in non-convertible debt during the prior three-year period.

Recent Developments

Investment Portfolio

On January 5, 2017, we sold our position in Securus Technologies Holdings, Inc for proceeds of \$8.4 million. We realized a loss of \$41 thousand upon the sale.

On January 25, 2017, we received full repayment on the first lien term loan of Momentum Telecom, Inc for proceeds of \$15.3 million, including a \$0.2 million premium.

On February 1, 2017, our first lien term loan in Glori Energy Production, Inc was converted to an equity position at par equal to \$1.7 million.

On February 3, 2017, we invested \$6.3 million in the unsecured term loan of Time Manufacturing, Inc, a global manufacturer of vehicle-mounted aerial lift equipment. Additionally, we invested \$0.5 million in the equity of the company.

On February 8, 2017, we received full repayment on the second lien term loan of MTC Intermediate Holdco for proceeds of \$10.4 million, including a \$0.1 million prepayment fee. Additionally, we received a distribution of \$0.7 million, which is classified as a return of capital for the equity in MTC Parent, LP.

On March 1, 2017, we received full repayment on the first lien term loan of 360 Holdings Corp for proceeds of \$4.0 million.

- On March 27, 2017, we invested \$5.0 million in the second lien term loan of Beneplace, LLC, an employee voluntary benefit program management company. Additionally, we invested \$0.5 million in the equity of the company.
- On March 31, 2017, we invested \$10.0 million in the second lien term loan of National Trench Safety, LLC, a servicer of the trench and trench safety industry. Additionally, we invested \$0.5 million in the equity of the company.

Credit Facility

The outstanding balance under the Credit Facility as of March 31, 2017 was \$195.0 million.

S-8

Investment Portfolio 21

THE OFFERING

Common stock offered by us

3,000,000 shares

Common stock outstanding prior to this offering

12,479,959 shares

Common stock to be outstanding after this offering

15,479,959 shares (assuming no exercise of the underwriters option to purchase additional shares)

Use of proceeds

The net proceeds from this offering (without exercise of the option to purchase additional shares and after deducting estimated expenses payable by us of approximately \$135,000) will be \$. See Use of Proceeds in this prospectus supplement for more information.

Distributions

We pay monthly distributions to our stockholders out of assets legally available for distribution. Our monthly distributions, if any, will be determined by our board of directors.

Taxation

We have elected to be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a RIC. As a RIC, we generally will not have to pay corporate-level U.S. federal income taxes on any net ordinary income or capital gains that we distribute to our stockholders. To maintain our qualification as a RIC and the associated tax benefits, we must meet specified source-of-income and asset diversification requirements and distribute annually at least 90% of our net ordinary income and net short-term capital gains, if any, in excess of our net long-term capital losses. See Distributions and Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations in the accompanying prospectus.

New York Stock Exchange symbol

SCM

Trading at a discount

Shares of closed-end investment companies, including BDCs, frequently trade in the secondary market at a discount to their net asset values. The risk that our shares may trade at a discount to our net asset value is separate and distinct from the risk that our net asset value per share may decline. We cannot predict whether our shares will trade above, at or below net asset value. See Risk Factors beginning on page 17 of the accompanying prospectus for a discussion of risks you should carefully consider before deciding to invest in shares of our common stock.

Leverage

We expect to continue to use borrowed funds in order to make additional investments. We expect to use this practice, which is known as leverage, when the terms and conditions are favorable to long-term investing and well aligned with our investment strategy and portfolio composition in an effort to increase returns to our stockholders, but this strategy involves significant risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page 17 of the accompanying prospectus. With certain limited exceptions, we are only allowed to borrow amounts such that our asset coverage, as defined in the 1940 Act, is at least 200% immediately after each such borrowing. The amount of

S-9

THE OFFERING 22

TABLE OF CONTENTS

leverage that we employ will depend on Stellus Capital Management s and our board of directors assessment of market and other factors at the time of any proposed borrowing.

Our current borrowings include:

our 6.50% Notes due 2019, of which \$25.0 million were outstanding as of March 31, 2017;

our \$195.0 million Credit Facility, of which \$116.0 million was outstanding as of March 31; and

our SBA-Guaranteed debentures, of which \$65.0 million were outstanding as of March 31, 2017.

Risk Factors

See Risk Factors beginning on page 17 of the accompanying prospectus for a discussion of risks you should carefully consider before deciding to invest in shares of our common stock.

S-10

THE OFFERING 23

FEES AND EXPENSES

The following table is intended to assist you in understanding the costs and expenses that an investor in our common stock will bear directly or indirectly. We caution you that some of the percentages indicated in the table below are estimates and may vary. Moreover, the information set forth below does not include any transaction costs and expenses that investors will incur in connection with each offering of our securities pursuant to this prospectus supplement. Except where the context suggests otherwise, whenever this prospectus supplement contains a reference to fees or expenses paid by us or that we will pay fees or expenses, common stockholders will indirectly bear such fees or expenses.

Stockholder Transaction Expenses:

Sales load (as a percentage of offering price)	% (1)
Offering expenses (as a percentage of offering price)	% (2)
Dividend reinvestment plan expenses	(3)
Total Stockholder Transaction Expenses (as a percentage of offering price)		%
Annual Expenses (as percentage of net assets attributable to common stock):		
Base management fees	3.77%	(4)
Incentive fees payable under the investment advisory agreement	2.56%	(5)
Interest payments on borrowed funds	4.13%	(6)
Other expenses	2.84%	(7)
Total annual expenses	13.30	%

Represents the commission with respect to the shares of common stock being sold in this offering. There is no (1) guarantee that there will be any sales of our common stock pursuant to this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

- (2) The percentage reflects estimated offering expenses of approximately \$135,000.
- (3) The expenses of the dividend reinvestment plan are included in Other expenses.

Our base management fee, payable quarterly in arrears, is 1.75% of our gross assets, including assets purchased with borrowed amounts or other forms of leverage (including traditional and effective leverage such as preferred 4) stock, public and private debt issuances, derivative instruments, repurchase agreements and other similar

- (4) stock, public and private debt issuances, derivative instruments, repurchase agreements and other similar instruments or arrangements) and excluding cash and cash equivalents and is based on the base management fee incurred for the year ended December 31, 2016.
- (5) This item represents the incentive fee payable to Stellus Capital Management based on the actual amounts earned on our pre-incentive fee net investment income for the year ended December 31, 2016.

The incentive fee consists of two components, ordinary income and capital gains:

The ordinary income component, which is payable quarterly in arrears, equals 20.0% of the excess, if any, of our pre-incentive fee net investment income over a 2.0% quarterly (8.0% annualized) hurdle rate, expressed as a rate of return on the value of our net assets attributable to our common stock, and a catch-up provision, measured as of the end of each calendar quarter. Under this provision, in any calendar quarter, our investment adviser receives no incentive fee until our net investment income equals the hurdle rate of 2.0% but then receives, as a catch-up, 100% of our pre-incentive fee net investment income with respect to that portion of such pre-incentive fee net investment income, if any, that exceeds the hurdle rate but is less than 2.5% subject to a total return requirement and deferral of non-cash amounts. The effect of the catch-up provision is that, subject to the total return and deferral provisions discussed below, if pre-incentive fee net investment income exceeds 2.5% in any calendar quarter, Stellus Capital Management will receive 20.0% of our pre-incentive fee net investment income as if a hurdle rate did not apply. The

FEES AND EXPENSES 24

ordinary income component of the incentive fee is computed on income that may include interest that is accrued but not yet received in cash. The foregoing ordinary income component of the incentive fee is subject to a total return requirement, which provides that no incentive fee in respect of the Company s pre-incentive fee net investment income is payable except to the extent 20.0% of the cumulative net increase in net assets resulting from operations (as defined below) over the then current and 11 preceding calendar quarters exceeds the cumulative incentive fees accrued and/or paid for the 11 preceding calendar quarters. In other words, any ordinary income incentive fee that is payable in a calendar quarter will be limited to the lesser of (i) 20.0% of the amount by which our pre-incentive fee net investment income for such calendar quarter exceeds the 2.0% hurdle, subject to the catch-up provision, and S-11

FEES AND EXPENSES 25

(ii) (x) 20.0% of the cumulative net increase in net assets resulting from operations for the then current and 11 preceding calendar quarters *minus* (y) the cumulative incentive fees accrued and/or paid for the 11 preceding calendar quarters. For the foregoing purpose, the cumulative net increase in net assets resulting from operations is the sum of pre-incentive fee net investment income, realized gains and losses and unrealized appreciation and depreciation of the Company for the then current and 11 preceding calendar quarters. In addition, the portion of such incentive fee that is attributable to deferred interest (sometimes referred to as PIK or original issue discount, or OID) will be paid to Stellus Capital Management, together with interest thereon from the date of deferral to the date of payment, only if and to the extent we actually receive such interest in cash, and any accrual thereof will be reversed if and to the extent such interest is reversed in connection with any write-off or similar treatment of the investment giving rise to any deferred interest accrual. Any reversal of such accounts would reduce net income for the quarter by the net amount of the reversal (after taking into account the reversal of incentive fees payable) and would result in a reduction and possibly elimination of the incentive fees for such quarter. There is no accumulation of amounts on the hurdle rate from quarter to quarter, and accordingly, there is no clawback of amounts previously paid if subsequent quarters are below the quarterly hurdle, and there is no delay of payment if prior quarters are below the quarterly hurdle.

The capital gains component of the incentive fee equals 20.0% of our Incentive Fee Capital Gains, if any, which equals our aggregate cumulative realized capital gains from inception through the end of each calendar year, computed net of our aggregate cumulative realized capital losses and our aggregate cumulative unrealized capital depreciation, less the aggregate amount of any previously paid capital gain incentive fees. The second component of the incentive fee is payable, in arrears, at the end of each calendar year (or upon termination of the investment advisory agreement, as of the termination date). We will record an expense accrual relating to the capital gains component of the incentive fee payable by us to Stellus Capital Management when the net unrealized gains on our investments exceed all realized capital losses on our investments given the fact that a capital gains incentive fee would be owed to Stellus Capital Management if we were to liquidate our investment portfolio at such time. The actual incentive fee payable to our investment adviser related to capital gains is determined and payable in arrears at the end of each fiscal year and includes only realized capital gains for the period. See Management Agreements Management Fee and Incentive Fee in the accompanying prospectus.

Stellus Capital Management has agreed to permanently waive any interest accrued on the portion of the incentive fee attributable to deferred interest (such as PIK interest or OID).

actual interest expense incurred under our Credit Facility and the Notes for the year ended December 31, 2016, and annualized for a full year. As of December 31, 2016, we had \$116 million outstanding under the Credit Facility, with capacity to borrow up to an aggregate of \$79 million, \$25.0 million of Notes outstanding and \$65.0 million in SBA-guaranteed debentures. For the year ended December 31, 2016, our interest expense was \$8.0 million. Interest expense is calculated based upon the amounts outstanding on our Credit Facility at December 31, 2016, bearing interest at a weighted average interest rate of 3.2%, amounts outstanding on our notes payable at an interest rate of 6.50% and our SBA-guaranteed debentures bearing interest at a weighted average interest rate of 2.9%, each as of December 31, 2016. Non-use commitment fees of 0.50% related to our Credit Facility is based upon unused commitments as of December 31, 2016. The amount of leverage that we employ, and our interest expenses on such leverage, at any particular time will depend on, among other things, our board of directors assessment of market and other factors at the time of any proposed borrowing.

Interest payments on borrowed funds represent our estimated annual interest payments based on the

Includes our overhead expenses, including payments under the administration agreement based on our allocable (7) portion of overhead and other expenses incurred by Stellus Capital Management. See Management Agreements Administration Agreement in the accompanying prospectus.

FEES AND EXPENSES

(6)

Example

The following example demonstrates the projected dollar amount of total cumulative expenses over various periods with respect to a hypothetical investment in us. In calculating the following expense amounts, we have assumed that our annual operating expenses would remain at the levels set forth in the table above.

	1	3	5	10
		Years		
You would pay the following expenses on a \$1,000 investment, assuming a	\$	\$	\$	\$
5% annual return				

While the example assumes, as required by the SEC, a 5% annual return, our performance will vary and may result in a return greater or less than 5%. The incentive fee under the investment management agreement, which, assuming a 5% annual return, would either not be payable or would have a de minimis effect, is not included in the example. If we achieve sufficient returns on our investments, including through the realization of capital gains, to trigger an incentive fee of a

S-12

Example 27

material amount, our expenses, and returns to our investors, would be higher. For example, if we assumed that we received our 5.0% annual return completely in the form of net realized capital gains on our investments, which results in a capital gains incentive fee earned, the projected dollar amount of total cumulative expenses set forth in the above illustration and the capital gains incentive fee would be as follows:

	1	3	5	10
				Years
You would pay the following expenses on a \$1,000 investment, assuming a	\$	¢	•	Φ
5% annual return	φ	Φ	φ	φ

While the examples assume reinvestment of all distributions at net asset value, participants in our dividend reinvestment plan will receive a number of shares of our common stock, determined by dividing the total dollar amount of the distribution payable to a participant by (a) 95% of the market price per share of our common stock at the close of trading on the payment date fixed by our board of directors or (b) the average purchase price of all shares of common stock purchased by the administrator of the dividend reinvestment plan in the event shares are purchased in the open market to satisfy the share requirements of the dividend reinvestment plan, which may be at, above or below net asset value.

This example and the expenses in the table above should not be considered a representation of our future expenses, and actual expenses (including the cost of debt, if any, and other expenses) may be greater or less than those shown.

S-13

Example 28

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Some of the statements in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus constitute forward-looking statements, which relate to future events or our future performance or financial condition. The forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus may include, but are not limited to, statements as to:

our business prospects and the prospects of our portfolio companies;
the effect of investments that we expect to make;
our contractual arrangements and relationships with third parties;
actual and potential conflicts of interest with Stellus Capital Management;
the dependence of our future success on the general economy and its effect on the industries in which we invest;
the ability of our portfolio companies to achieve their objectives;
the use of borrowed money to finance a portion of our investments;
the adequacy of our financing sources and working capital;
the timing of cash flows, if any, from the operations of our portfolio companies;
the ability of Stellus Capital Management to locate suitable investments for us and to monitor and administer our investments:

the ability of Stellus Capital Management to attract and retain highly talented professionals; our ability to qualify and maintain our qualification as a RIC and as a business development company; and the effect of future changes in laws or regulations (including the interpretation of these laws and regulations by regulatory authorities) and conditions in our operating areas, particularly with respect to business development companies or RICs.

Such forward-looking statements may include statements preceded by, followed by or that otherwise include the words may, might, will, intend, should, could, can, would, expect, believe, estimate, or similar words.

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We have based the forward-looking statements included in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus on information available to us on the date of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and we assume no obligation to update any such forward-looking statements. Actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in our forward-looking statements, and future results could differ materially from historical performance. We undertake no obligation to revise or update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, unless required by law or SEC rule or regulation. You are advised to consult any additional disclosures that we may make directly to you, including in the form of a prospectus supplement or post-effective amendment to the registration statement to which this prospectus relates, or through reports that we in the future may file with the SEC, including annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K.

You should understand that, under Sections 27A(b)(2)(B) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and Section 21E(b)(2)B of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 do not apply to statements made in connection with any offering of securities pursuant to this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, if any.

USE OF PROCEEDS

The net proceeds from the sale of the 3,000,000 shares of common stock in this offering are \$, and \$ if the underwriter s option to purchase additional shares is exercised in full, after deducting the underwriting discount and estimated offering expenses payable by us.

We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering to capitalize our SBIC subsidiary and/or to repay a portion of the amount outstanding under the Credit Facility, for general corporate purposes, which may include investing in debt or equity securities, and other general corporate purposes, including working capital requirements.

As of March 31, 2017, our SBIC subsidiary had \$38.0 million in regulatory capital of a maximum of \$75.0 million. As of December 31, 2016, our SBIC subsidiary had \$65.0 million in SBA-guaranteed debentures outstanding, which approximated their fair value. The additional commitments to our SBIC subsidiary would allow it to borrow an additional \$85.0 million.

As of March 31, 2017, we had \$195.0 million outstanding under the Credit Facility. The Credit Facility has a maturity date of October 1, 2018. Borrowings under the Credit Facility bear interest, subject to our election, on a per annum basis equal to (i) LIBOR plus 2.625% with no LIBOR floor or (ii) 1.625% plus an alternate base rate based on the highest of the Prime Rate, Federal Funds Rate plus 0.5% or one month LIBOR plus 1.0%. We pay unused commitment fees of 0.50% per annum on the unused lender commitments under the Credit Facility. Interest is payable quarterly in arrears. Pending such use, we will invest the net proceeds of this offering primarily in short-term securities consistent with our BDC election and our qualification as a RIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes. See Regulation Temporary Investments in the accompanying prospectus.

We intend to seek to invest the net proceeds received in this offering as promptly as practicable after receipt thereof consistent with our investment objective. We anticipate that substantially all of the net proceeds from this offering of our securities will be used as described above within three to six months, depending on market conditions. We anticipate that the remainder will be used for working capital and general corporate purposes, including potential payments or distributions to shareholders. Pending such use, we will invest a portion of the net proceeds of this offering in short-term investments, such as cash and cash equivalents, which we expect will earn yields substantially lower than the interest income that we anticipate receiving in respect of investments in accordance with our investment objective.

S-15

USE OF PROCEEDS 31

CAPITALIZATION

The following table sets forth our capitalization as of December 31, 2016:

on an actual basis; and

on an as further adjusted basis giving effect to the assumed sale of 3,000,000 shares of our common stock at a price of \$\ \text{per share, less commissions and expenses, and the application of the proceeds thereof.}

This table should be read in conjunction with our Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and our financial statements and notes thereto included in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

	As of December 31, 2016	
		As Adjusted
	Actual	(1)
		(Unaudited)
	(in thousands, except	
	shares and per share	
	amounts)	
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$9,194	\$
Investments, at fair value	\$365,626	\$ 365,626
Other assets	\$5,059	\$ 5,059
Total assets	\$379,879	\$
Liabilities:		
6.50% Notes due 2019	\$24,566	\$ 24,566
Credit Facility (1)	\$115,171	\$
SBA-Guaranteed debentures	\$63,342	\$ 63,342
Other liabilities	\$5,918	\$ 5,918
Total liabilities	\$208,997	\$
Stockholder s equity:		
Common stock, par value \$0.001 per share (100,000,000 shares authorized;		
12,479,959 shares issued and outstanding, actual; 15,479,959 ⁽²⁾ shares issued	\$12	\$
and outstanding, as adjusted)		
Paid-in capital in excess of par value	\$180,995	\$
Accumulated undistributed net realized gain	\$	

CAPITALIZATION 32