

NOMURA HOLDINGS INC
Form FWP
October 14, 2010

Preliminary Terms

ISSUER FREE WRITING PROSPECTUS

Filed pursuant to Rule 433

Registration Nos. 333-169682, 333-169682-01

October 14, 2010

US\$

Nomura America Finance, LLC

Senior Global Medium-Term Notes, Series A

Fully and Unconditionally Guaranteed by Nomura Holdings, Inc.

4.00% Senior Notes due October 25, 2018

Nomura America Finance, LLC is offering the 4.00% senior notes due October 25, 2018 (the notes) described below. The notes are unsecured securities, and all payments on the notes are subject to our credit risk and that of the guarantor of the notes, Nomura Holdings, Inc.

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Issuer: | Nomura America Finance, LLC (we or us) |
| Guarantor: | Nomura Holdings, Inc. (Nomura) |
| Type of Securities: | Fixed rate senior debt securities |
| Principal Amount: | US\$ |
| Interest Rate: | 4.00% |
| Interest Payment Dates: | Quarterly, on January 25, April 25, July 25 and October 25 of each year, commencing January 25, 2011 and ending on the maturity date. |
| Trade Date: | October 14, 2010 |
| Original Issue Date: | October 25, 2010 |
| Maturity Date: | October 25, 2018 |
| Program: | Senior Global Medium-Term Notes, Series A |
| Program Ratings: | Standard & Poor s: BBB+ |
| | Moody s: (P)Baa2 (provisional) |

A BBB rating is the fourth-highest category of S&P rating while a + or - designation shows the relative standing within the major rating categories. A BBB rating by S&P generally indicates that the obligor has adequate capacity to meet its financial commitments. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity of the obligor to meet its financial commitments. A (P)Baa2 provisional rating by Moody s is in the middle of the fourth-highest category of Moody s rating. Obligations rated Baa are subject to moderate credit risk. They are considered medium-grade and as such may possess certain

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speculative characteristics. The modifier 1 indicates that the obligation ranks in the higher end of its generic rating category; the modifier 2 indicates a mid-range ranking; and the modifier 3 indicates a ranking in the lower end of that generic rating category. Moody's often assigns a provisional rating when the assignment of a final rating is subject to the fulfillment of contingencies but it is highly likely that the rating will become definitive after all documents are received or an obligation is issued into the market. Credit ratings are not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold securities and may be subject to downward revision, suspension or withdrawal at any time by the relevant rating agencies. Each rating should be evaluated independently of any other rating. Program ratings are not definitive ratings issued for a specific debt security and indicate only the rating agencies' view of the obligor's ability to meet its obligations.

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Day Count Convention: 30/360

Public Offering Price: 100.00%

Denominations: \$1,000 and integral multiples thereof

Minimum Initial Investment Amount: \$1,000

Redemption: Not redeemable

CUSIP No.: 65539AAA8

Currency: U.S. dollars

Listing: We intend to apply to list the notes on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) under the symbol NMR/18

Distribution Agent: Nomura Securities International, Inc.

Calculation Agent: Nomura Securities International, Inc.

Paying Agent and Transfer Agent: Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas

Clearance and Settlement: DTC (including through its indirect participants Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg as described under Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance in the accompanying prospectus)

Investing in the notes involves certain risks. You should carefully consider the risk factors beginning on page P-5 of this free writing prospectus, under Risk Factors of the accompanying prospectus and incorporated by reference into the accompanying prospectus before you invest in the notes.

We expect delivery of the notes will be made against payment therefor on or about the original issue date specified above. Under Rule 15c6-1 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, trades in the secondary market generally are required to settle in three business days, unless the parties to any such trade expressly agree otherwise. Accordingly, as the original issue date will occur more than three business days from the trade date, purchasers who wish to trade the notes more than three business days prior to the original issue date will be required to specify alternative settlement arrangements to prevent a failed settlement.

The notes will be our unsecured obligations. We are not a bank, and the notes will not constitute deposits insured by the U.S. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency or instrumentality.

| | Agent s | Proceeds to |
|-----------------|------------|-------------|
| Per Note | Commission | Issuer |
| Price to Public | % | % |
| Total | \$ | \$ |

We estimate that our share of the total offering expenses, excluding underwriting discounts and commissions, will be approximately \$.

We may use this free writing prospectus in the initial sale of the notes. In addition, Nomura Securities International, Inc. or another of our affiliates may use this free writing prospectus in market-making transactions in the notes after their initial sale. ***Unless we inform or our agent informs the purchaser otherwise in the confirmation of sale, this free writing prospectus is being used in a market-making transaction.*** To the extent the distribution agent resells notes to a broker or dealer less a concession equal to the entire underwriting discount, such broker or dealer may be deemed to be an underwriter of the notes as such term is defined in the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

Nomura Securities International, Inc. and/or its affiliates have performed, and in the future may provide, investment banking and advisory services for us from time to time for which they have received, and expect to receive, customary fees and commissions. Nomura Securities International, Inc. and its affiliates may, from time to time, engage in transactions with, and perform services for, us in the ordinary course of business.

We have filed a registration statement (including a prospectus) with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, for the offering to which this free writing prospectus relates. Before you invest, you should read the prospectus and any other documents relating to the securities that we or Nomura have filed with the SEC for more complete information about us, Nomura and this offering. You may obtain these documents for free from the SEC website at www.sec.gov. Our central index key, or CIK, on the SEC website is 0001383951. Alternatively, Nomura will arrange to send you these documents if you so request by calling (212) 667-1928 or e-mailing fidsalessupport@us.nomura.com.

Nomura

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We have filed a registration statement (including a prospectus, which we refer to as the prospectus) with the SEC for the offering to which this free writing prospectus relates. Before you invest, you should read these documents and any other documents relating to the securities that we or Nomura have filed with the SEC for more complete information about us, Nomura and this offering. You may obtain these documents for free from the SEC website at www.sec.gov. Our central index key, or CIK, on the SEC website is 0001383951. Alternatively, Nomura will arrange to send you these documents if you so request by calling (212) 667-1928 or e-mailing fidsalessupport@us.nomura.com.

You may access our documents on the SEC web site at www.sec.gov as follows:

Prospectus dated September 30, 2010:

<http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1163653/000119312510220937/df3asr.htm>

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ADDITIONAL RISK FACTORS SPECIFIC TO YOUR NOTES

*An investment in your notes is subject to the risks described below, as well as the risks described under "Risk Factors" in the accompanying prospectus, dated September 30, 2010. Please note that in this section entitled "Additional Risk Factors Specific to Your Notes," references to "holders" mean those who own notes registered in their own names, on the books that we, Nomura or the trustee maintain for this purpose, and not those who own beneficial interests in notes registered in street name or in notes issued in book-entry form through The Depository Trust Company ("DTC") or another depository. Owners of beneficial interests in the notes should read the section entitled "Description of Debt Securities and Guarantee - Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance" in the accompanying prospectus. Your notes are not secured debt. You should carefully consider whether the notes are suited to your particular circumstances. This free writing prospectus should be read together with the accompanying prospectus, dated September 30, 2010. The information in the accompanying prospectus is supplemented by, and to the extent inconsistent therewith replaced and superseded by, the information in this free writing prospectus. **This section describes the most significant risks relating to an investment in the notes. We urge you to read all of the following information about all of the risks associated with the notes, together with the other information in this free writing prospectus and the accompanying prospectus before investing in the notes.***

Because Nomura is a Holding Company, Your Right to Receive Payments on Nomura's Guarantee of the Notes is Subordinated to the Liabilities of Nomura's Other Subsidiaries

The ability of Nomura to make payments, as guarantor, on the notes, depends upon Nomura's receipt of dividends, loan payments and other funds from subsidiaries. In addition, if any of Nomura's subsidiaries becomes insolvent, the direct creditors of that subsidiary will have a prior claim on its assets, and Nomura's rights and the rights of Nomura's creditors, including your rights as an owner of the notes, will be subject to that prior claim.

Nomura's subsidiaries are subject to various laws and regulations that may restrict Nomura's ability to receive dividends, loan payments and other funds from subsidiaries. In Japan, Nomura Securities Co., Ltd., as a securities company, is required to maintain an adjusted capital ratio at specified levels. In the United States, Nomura Securities International, Inc. is subject to certain minimum net capital requirements and capital adequacy requirements. In the United Kingdom, Nomura International plc is regulated by the U.K. Financial Services Authority and is subject to the capital requirements of that authority. In addition, certain of Nomura's other subsidiaries are subject to securities and banking regulations and capital adequacy requirements promulgated by the regulatory and exchange authorities of the countries in which such subsidiaries operate. As a result, Nomura's ability to receive funds from those subsidiaries may be limited, and Nomura's ability to pay on its guarantee of the notes may also be limited.

You Are Subject to Nomura's Credit Risk, and the Value of Your Notes May Be Adversely Affected by Negative Changes in the Market's Perception of Nomura's Creditworthiness

By purchasing the notes, you are making, in part, a decision about Nomura's ability to repay you the amounts you are owed pursuant to the terms of your notes. Substantially all of our assets will consist of loans to and other receivables from Nomura and its subsidiaries. Our obligations under your notes are also guaranteed by Nomura. Therefore, as a practical matter, our ability to repay you amounts we owe on the notes is directly or indirectly linked solely to Nomura's creditworthiness. In addition, the market's perception of Nomura's creditworthiness generally will directly impact the value of your notes. If Nomura becomes or is perceived as becoming less creditworthy following your purchase of notes, you should expect that they will decline in value in the secondary market, perhaps substantially. If you attempt to sell your notes in the secondary market in such an environment, you may incur a substantial loss.

In addition, notes that are rated below BBB- by Standard & Poor's or Baa3 by Moody's are generally considered by the market to be non-investment grade securities and are deemed to be speculative investments. If Nomura's credit rating is downgraded below these levels, there may be a significant adverse effect on the price for which you may sell your notes in the secondary market.

There May Not Be an Active Trading Market for the Notes Sales in the Secondary Market May Result in Significant Losses

We intend to apply to list the notes on the NYSE under the symbol NMR/18. However, there may be little or no secondary market for the notes. Nomura Securities International, Inc. and other affiliates of ours currently intend to make a market for the notes, although they are not required to do so. Nomura Securities International, Inc. or any other affiliate of ours may stop any such market-making activities at any time. Even if a secondary market for the notes develops, it may not provide significant liquidity or trade at prices advantageous to you. We expect that transaction costs in any secondary market would be high. As a result, the difference between bid and ask prices for your notes in any secondary market could be substantial.

Furthermore, if you sell your notes, you will likely be charged a commission for secondary market transactions, or the price will likely reflect a dealer discount.

If you sell your notes before the stated maturity date, you may have to do so at a substantial discount from the issue price and as a result you may suffer substantial losses.

The Market Value of Your Notes May Be Influenced by Many Unpredictable Factors

In addition to our and Nomura's creditworthiness, a number of other economic and market factors will influence the value of the notes. The following factors, which are beyond our control, may influence the market value of your notes:

supply and demand for the notes, including inventory positions with Nomura Securities International, Inc. or any other market-maker;

the time to maturity of the notes;

interest and yield rates in the market generally and expectations about future interest and yield rates; and

economic, financial, political, regulatory or judicial events that affect the debt markets generally.

These factors may influence the market value of your notes if you sell your notes before maturity. If you sell your notes prior to maturity, you may receive less than the principal amount of your notes.

Non-U.S. Investors May Be Subject to Certain Additional Risks

The notes will be denominated in U.S. dollars. If you are a non-U.S. investor who purchases the notes with a currency other than U.S. dollars, changes in rates of exchange may have an adverse effect on the value, price or income of your investment.

The accompanying prospectus contains a general description of certain U.S. tax considerations relating to the notes under *United States Taxation*. If you are a non-U.S. investor, you should consult your tax advisors as to the consequences, under the tax laws of the country where you are resident for tax purposes, of acquiring, holding and disposing of the notes and receiving payments of principal or other amounts under the notes.

Certain Considerations for Insurance Companies and Employee Benefit Plans

Any insurance company or fiduciary of a pension plan or other employee benefit plan that is subject to the prohibited transaction rules of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, which we call "ERISA", or the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, including an IRA or a Keogh plan (or a governmental plan to which similar prohibitions apply), and that is considering purchasing the notes with the assets of the insurance company or the assets of such a plan, should consult with its counsel regarding whether the purchase or holding of the notes could become a prohibited transaction under ERISA, the Internal Revenue Code or any substantially similar prohibition in light of the representations a purchaser or holder in any of the above categories is deemed to make by purchasing and holding the notes. This is discussed in more detail under *Employee Retirement Income Security Act* below.

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RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND COMPUTATION THEREOF

The following table sets forth the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, and the amount of fixed charge deficiency, of Nomura and its consolidated subsidiaries for the three months ended June 30, 2010, in accordance with U.S. GAAP.

| | Three months ended June 30, 2010 (Yen in millions) | |
|---|---|---------------|
| Earnings: | | |
| Pre-tax income (loss) from continuing operations before adjustment for income or loss from equity investees | ¥ | 6,020 |
| Add: Fixed charges | | 54,192 |
| Distributed income of equity investees | | 2,676 |
| Earnings as defined | ¥ | 62,888 |
| Fixed charges ⁽¹⁾ | ¥ | 54,192 |
| Ratio of earnings to fixed charges | | 1.2 |

- (1) For the purpose of calculating the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, and the amount of fixed charge deficiency, earnings consist of pre-tax income (loss) from continuing operations before adjustment for income or loss from equity investees, plus (i) fixed charges and (ii) distributed income of equity investees. Fixed charges consist of interest expense. Fixed charges exclude premium and discount amortization as well as interest expense, which are included in Net gain (loss) on trading. Fixed charges also exclude interest within rent expense, which is insignificant.

EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT

This section is only relevant to you if you are an insurance company or the fiduciary of a pension plan or an employee benefit plan (including a governmental plan, an IRA or a Keogh Plan) proposing to invest in the notes.

The U.S. Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA) and the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), prohibit certain transactions (prohibited transactions) involving the assets of an employee benefit plan that is subject to the fiduciary responsibility provisions of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code (including individual retirement accounts, Keogh plans and other plans described in Section 4975(e)(1) of the Code) (a Plan) and certain persons who are parties in interest (within the meaning of ERISA) or disqualified persons (within the meaning of the Code) with respect to the Plan; governmental plans may be subject to similar prohibitions unless an exemption applies to the transaction. The assets of a Plan may include assets held in the general account of an insurance company that are deemed plan assets under ERISA or assets of certain investment vehicles in which the Plan invests. Each of Nomura and certain of its affiliates may be considered a party in interest or a disqualified person with respect to many Plans, and, accordingly, prohibited transactions may arise if the notes are acquired by or on behalf of a Plan unless those notes are acquired and held pursuant to an available exemption. In general, available exemptions are: transactions effected on behalf of that Plan by a qualified professional asset manager (prohibited transaction exemption 84-14) or an in-house asset manager (prohibited transaction exemption 96-23), transactions involving insurance company general accounts (prohibited transaction exemption 95-60), transactions involving insurance company pooled separate accounts (prohibited transaction exemption 90-1), transactions involving bank collective investment funds (prohibited transaction exemption 91-38) and transactions with service providers under Section 408(b)(17) of ERISA and Section 4975(d)(20) of the Code where the Plan receives no less and pays no more than adequate consideration (within the meaning of Section 408(b)(17) of ERISA and Section 4975(f)(10) of the Code). The person making the decision on behalf of a Plan or a governmental plan shall be deemed, on behalf of itself and the plan, by purchasing and holding the notes, or exercising any rights related thereto, to represent that (a) the plan will receive no less and pay no more than adequate consideration (within the meaning of Section 408(b)(17) of ERISA and Section 4975(f)(10) of the Code) in connection with the purchase and holding of the notes, (b) none of the purchase, holding or disposition of the notes or the exercise of any rights related to the notes will result in a nonexempt prohibited transaction under ERISA or the Code (or, with respect to a governmental plan, under any similar applicable law or regulation), and (c) neither Nomura nor any of its affiliates is a fiduciary (within the meaning of Section 3(21) of ERISA) or, with respect to a governmental plan, under any similar applicable law or regulation) with respect to the purchaser or holder in connection with such person's acquisition, disposition or holding of the notes, or as a result of any exercise by Nomura or any of its affiliates of any rights in connection with the notes, and no advice provided by Nomura or any of its affiliates has formed a primary basis for any investment decision by or on behalf of such purchaser or holder in connection with the notes and the transactions contemplated with respect to the notes.

If you are an insurance company or the fiduciary of a pension plan or an employee benefit plan (including a governmental plan, an IRA or a Keogh plan), and propose to invest in the notes, you should consult your legal counsel.