

BEAM INC
Form 424B5
June 03, 2013
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Registration Statement Number 333-181026
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The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement is not complete and may be changed. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not an offer to sell these securities and are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to Completion, Dated June 3, 2013

Preliminary Prospectus Supplement

(To Prospectus dated April 27, 2012)

\$

Beam Inc.

\$ % Notes due 2018

\$ % Notes due 2023

Interest payable and

We are offering \$ of our % Notes due 2018, or the 2018 Notes, and \$ of our % Notes due 2023, or the 2023 Notes. We refer to the 2018 Notes and the 2023 Notes, together, as the Notes. We will pay interest on the Notes on and of each year, beginning on , 2013. The 2018 Notes will mature on , 2018 . The 2023 Notes will mature on , 2023.

We may redeem all or a portion of each series of the Notes, at our option, at the applicable make-whole price set forth in this prospectus supplement, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to but excluding the redemption date. On and after , 2023 (90 days prior to the maturity date of the 2023 Notes), we may redeem all or any portion of the 2023 Notes, at our option, at 100% of the principal amount of the 2023 Notes to be redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to but excluding the redemption date. See Description of the Notes Optional Redemption. The Notes of each series are also subject to repurchase upon a Change of Control Triggering Event. See Description of the Notes Change of Control Offer.

Each series of Notes will be our unsecured and unsubordinated obligations and will rank equally with all of our other existing and future unsecured senior indebtedness. Each series of Notes will be issued only in registered form in minimum denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof.

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

Investing in the Notes involves risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page S-6 of this prospectus supplement and the risk factors included in our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012.

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	Public Offering Price (1)		Underwriting Discount	Proceeds Before Expenses to Beam (1)	
Per	%	Note due 2018	%	%	%
Total	\$		\$		\$
Per	%	Note due 2023	%	%	%
Total	\$		\$		\$

(1) Plus accrued and unpaid interest from _____, 2013, if settlement occurs after that date.
 We expect the Notes will be ready for delivery in book-entry form only through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company and its participants, including Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V., as operator of the Euroclear System (Euroclear), and Clearstream Banking, S.A. (Clearstream), on or about _____, 2013.

Joint Book-Running Managers

BofA Merrill Lynch

Credit Suisse

Barclays

J.P. Morgan

RBS

The date of this prospectus supplement is _____, 2013

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We have not authorized anyone to provide any information other than that contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or in any free writing prospectus prepared by or on behalf of us or to which we have referred you. We take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give you. We 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 not assume that the information contained in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, any such free writing prospectus or any document incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than their respective dates.

As used in this prospectus supplement, the terms the Company, Beam, we, us, and our may, depending upon the context, refer to Beam Inc., consolidated subsidiaries, or to all of them taken as a whole.

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WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), which the SEC maintains in the SEC's File No. 1-9076. You can read and copy any document we file at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room. Our SEC filings are also available to the public at the SEC's web site at www.sec.gov.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus the information we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, and later information filed with the SEC will update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any future filings made with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act") (excluding any information deemed to be furnished and not filed in accordance with SEC rules) until we sell all of the Notes:

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012 (including information specifically incorporated by reference from our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed on March 12, 2013);

Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended March 31, 2013; and

Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on April 3, 2013, April 29, 2013 and May 17, 2013.

You may request a copy of these filings, at no cost other than for exhibits of such filings, by writing to or telephoning us at the following address:

BEAM INC.

Office of the Secretary

510 Lake Cook Road

Deerfield, Illinois 60015

(847) 948-8888

Information about us, including our SEC filings, is also available on our web site at www.beamglobal.com. Information on our web site is not incorporated by reference into, and you should not consider it a part of, this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

This prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), and Section 21E of the Exchange Act. All statements, other than statements of historical facts, included or incorporated herein regarding our strategy, future operations, financial position, future revenues, projected costs, prospects, plans and objectives are forward-looking statements. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terminology such as anticipates, believes, continues, estimates, expects, forecasts, goal, may, opportunity, plans, potential, projects, seeks, should, strives, targets, will, would, and similar expressions or expressions of these terms. Such statements are only predictions and, accordingly, are subject to substantial risks, uncertainties and assumptions.

We intend for our forward-looking statements to be covered by the safe harbor provisions for forward-looking statements contained in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, and we set forth this statement in order to comply with such safe harbor provisions. Although we believe that the expectations, plans,

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intentions, and projections reflected in our forward-looking statements are reasonable, such statements are subject to known and unknown risks, uncertainties, and other factors that may cause our actual results, performance, or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance, or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. The risks, uncertainties, and other factors that our stockholders and prospective investors should consider include, but are not limited to, the following:

general economic conditions;

competitive innovation and marketing pressures, including price;

changes in consumer preferences and trends;

financial and integration risks associated with acquisitions, joint ventures, and alliances, as well as potential divestitures;

the price and availability of raw materials and energy;

risks associated with doing business outside the United States, including changes in laws, governmental regulations and policies, compliance with anti-corruption statutes, civil and political unrest, and local labor conditions;

our ability to manage organizational productivity and global supply chains effectively;

the impact of excise tax increases and customs duties on our products or changes to government financial incentives;

fluctuations in currency exchange rates;

our ability to reach agreement on, maintain or renegotiate key agreements;

potential liabilities, costs and uncertainties of litigation;

our ability to attract and retain qualified personnel;

changes to laws and regulations;

downgrades of the Company's credit ratings;

dependence on performance of distributors, promoters and other marketing arrangements;

product quality issues;

costs of certain employee and retiree benefits and returns on pension assets;

changes to tax laws or interpretation of existing tax laws;

our ability to secure and maintain rights to intellectual property, including trademarks, trade dress, and tradenames;

impairment in the carrying value of goodwill or other acquired intangible assets

disruptions at production facilities and supply/demand forecasting uncertainties;

breaches of data security; and

other risks and uncertainties detailed from time to time in our SEC filings.

We caution you that these factors may not be exhaustive. The forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this prospectus supplement or, in the case of any document incorporated by reference, the date of that document. We have no duty to update any of the forward-looking statements after the date of this prospectus supplement. We operate in a continually changing business environment, and new risks emerge from time to time. Management cannot predict such new risks or the impact of such new risks on our business. Accordingly, you should not rely on forward-looking statements as a prediction of actual results.

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SUMMARY

This summary may not contain all the information that may be important to you. You should read the entire prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus, especially the risks discussed in the section titled "Risk Factors" beginning on page S-6, as well as the documents incorporated by reference in them, before making an investment decision.

Beam Inc.

We are a leading premium spirits company that makes and sells branded distilled spirits products in major markets worldwide. Our principal products include bourbon whiskey, tequila, Scotch whisky, Canadian whisky, vodka, cognac, rum, cordials, and ready-to-drink pre-mixed cocktails. Our diverse portfolio includes several of the world's top premium spirits brands.

Our principal executive offices are currently located at 510 Lake Cook Road, Deerfield, Illinois 60015 and our telephone number is (847) 948-8888.

Cash Tender Offers

On May 17, 2013, we commenced cash tender offers to purchase (i) any and all of our outstanding \$326 million principal amount of 6.375% Notes due 2014, or the 2014 Notes, and (ii) up to \$175 million of our 8.625% Debentures due 2021, 7.875% Debentures due 2023, 6.625% Debentures due 2028 and 5.875% Notes due 2036, or collectively, together with the 2014 Notes, the Tender Offer Notes, subject to certain conditions. The cash tender offers are being made only upon the terms and conditions set forth in an offer to purchase and related letter of transmittal, each dated May 17, 2013, and will expire at 11:59 p.m., New York City time, on June 14, 2013, unless extended or earlier terminated. We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering to repurchase and/or redeem a portion of the Tender Offer Notes, as described below. See "Use of Proceeds." The consummation of this offering is not contingent upon the completion of the cash tender offers. However, the cash tender offers are contingent upon, among other things, the completion of this offering. We cannot assure you that the cash tender offers will be completed in accordance with their terms, or at all. Nothing in this prospectus supplement should be construed as an offer to purchase any of the Tender Offer Notes.

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The Offering

Issuer	Beam Inc.
Securities Offered	<p>\$ aggregate principal amount of % Notes due 2018, which we refer to as the 2018 Notes. The 2018 Notes will be issued at a price of % per 2018 Note.</p> <p>\$ aggregate principal amount of % Notes due 2023, which we refer to as the 2023 Notes. The 2023 Notes will be issued at a price of % per 2023 Note.</p> <p>We refer to the 2018 Notes and the 2023 Notes collectively as the Notes.</p>
Maturity	The 2018 Notes mature on , 2018. The 2023 Notes mature on , 2023.
Interest	We will pay interest on the Notes on and of each year, beginning on , 2013.
Ranking	Each series of Notes will be our unsecured and unsubordinated obligations and will rank equal in right of payment to all of our other existing and future unsecured senior indebtedness.
Use of Proceeds	We expect the net proceeds from this offering to be approximately \$, after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and our estimated expenses of this offering totaling approximately \$1.0 million. We expect to use the net proceeds from this offering to repurchase Tender Offer Notes in the cash tender offers described above, plus pay accrued and unpaid interest on such Tender Offer Notes, any tender premiums and related fees and expenses, and to redeem all 2014 Notes not accepted for purchase in the cash tender offers in accordance with their terms. If the cash tender offers or redemption of the 2014 Notes are not completed, or there are any remaining net proceeds that are not so applied, then we expect to use the remaining proceeds from this offering for general corporate purposes. Pending such application, we may invest the net proceeds in short-term investments. See Use of Proceeds.
Optional Redemption	<p>We may redeem all or a portion of each series of the Notes at our option, at any time and from time to time, at the applicable make-whole price set forth in this prospectus supplement, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to but excluding the date of redemption.</p> <p>In addition, on and after , 2023 (90 days prior to the maturity date of the 2023 Notes), we may redeem the 2023 Notes at our option, at any time and from time to time, either in whole or in part, at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the 2023 Notes to be redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest to but</p>

excluding the date of redemption.

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See Description of the Notes Optional Redemption.

Change of Control Offer

If a change of control triggering event occurs with respect to the Notes, each holder of the Notes may require us to repurchase all or a portion of such holder's Notes at a price equal to 101% of the principal amount, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to but excluding the date of repurchase. See Description of the Notes Change of Control Offer.

Events of Default

If there is an event of default on the Notes, the principal amount of the Notes plus any accrued and unpaid interest may be declared due and payable. These amounts automatically become due and payable in certain circumstances. See Description of Debt Securities Certain Covenants Default and Certain Rights on Default in the accompanying prospectus.

DTC Eligibility

The Notes will be issued in book-entry form and will be represented by one or more permanent global certificates deposited with a custodian for and registered in the name of a nominee of The Depository Trust Company (DTC) in New York, New York, or its nominee for the accounts of its participants, including Euroclear, as operator of the Euroclear System, and Clearstream. Beneficial interests in any such securities will be shown on, and transfers will be effected only through, records maintained by DTC and its direct and indirect participants and any such interest may not be exchanged for certificated securities, except in limited circumstances. See Description of the Notes Book-Entry System.

Further Issuances

We may, without notice to or consent of the holders of either series of the Notes, increase the aggregate principal amount of either series of Notes and issue such increased principal amount (or any portion thereof), in which case any such additional notes may be consolidated and form a single series with the Notes of the applicable series of Notes offered by this prospectus supplement, provided that if the additional notes are not fungible with the 2018 or 2023 Notes, as the case may be, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the additional notes will have a separate CUSIP number.

Trustee, Registrar and Paying Agent

The Bank of New York Mellon.

Risk Factors

Investing in the Notes involves risks. See Risk Factors on page S-6 of this prospectus supplement and the risk factors included in our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012.

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RISK FACTORS

An investment in the Notes may involve various risks. Prior to making a decision about investing in the Notes, you should carefully consider the following risk factors, as well as those incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement from our annual report on Form 10-K for our fiscal year ended December 31, 2012 under the heading Risk Factors and in the other filings incorporated by reference herein.

We may not have sufficient funds to purchase the Notes upon a change of control triggering event, and this covenant provides limited protection to investors.

Holders of the Notes may require us to purchase their Notes upon a change of control triggering event as defined under Description of the Notes Change of Control Offer. We have no present intention to engage in a transaction involving a change of control triggering event, although it is possible that we could decide to do so in the future. We cannot assure you that we will have sufficient financial resources, or will be able to arrange sufficient financing, to pay the purchase price of the Notes, particularly if a change of control event triggers a similar repurchase requirement for, or results in the acceleration of, our other then-existing debt. Certain events that constitute a change of control for the Notes are also events of default under our existing credit agreements, which would permit our lenders to accelerate such indebtedness, to the extent amounts are outstanding.

The indenture under which the Notes will be issued does not limit the amount of indebtedness that we may incur. We could, in the future, enter into certain transactions, including acquisitions, refinancings or other recapitalizations, that would not constitute a change of control triggering event under the Notes, but that could increase the amount of indebtedness outstanding at that time or otherwise materially adversely affect our capital structure or credit ratings.

Active trading markets for the Notes may not develop.

Each series of the Notes is a new issue of securities with no established trading market and will not be listed on any securities exchange. If active trading markets do not develop or are not maintained, holders of the Notes may experience difficulty in reselling, or an inability to sell, the Notes. Future trading prices for the Notes may be adversely affected by many factors, including changes in our financial performance, changes in the overall market for similar securities and performance or prospects for companies in our industry.

Changes in our credit ratings may adversely affect the value of the Notes.

We cannot provide assurance that any credit ratings assigned to the Notes will remain in effect for any given period of time, or that any such ratings will not be lowered, suspended or withdrawn entirely by the rating agencies, if, in each rating agency's judgment, circumstances warrant such an action. Further, any such ratings will be limited in scope and will not address all material risks relating to an investment in the Notes, but rather will reflect only the view of each rating agency at the time the rating is issued. An explanation of the significance of such rating may be obtained from such rating agency. Actual or anticipated changes or downgrades in our credit ratings, including any announcement that our ratings are under further review for a downgrade, could adversely affect the market value of the Notes and increase our corporate borrowing costs.

The Notes are obligations of Beam Inc. and not of our subsidiaries, and will be structurally subordinated to creditors of our subsidiaries.

Beam Inc. is the sole obligor of the Notes. The Notes are our general unsecured obligations. We are a legal entity separate and distinct from our subsidiaries. Our rights and the rights of our creditors (including holders of the Notes being offered under this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus) and stockholders to participate in any distribution of the assets or earnings of any subsidiary is subject to the claims of creditors of the subsidiary, except to the extent that our claims as a creditor of such subsidiary may be recognized. Our claims may be subordinate to certain claims of others. Our principal source of unconsolidated revenues and funds is dividends and other payments from our subsidiaries. Our subsidiaries generally have no obligation to provide Beam Inc. with funds to meet our payment obligations under the Notes.

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USE OF PROCEEDS

We estimate that we will receive net proceeds from the offering of approximately \$ _____ million after deducting underwriting discounts and other estimated offering expenses payable by us. We intend to use the net proceeds from the offering to repurchase our outstanding 6.375% Notes due June 15, 2014, 8.625% Debentures due November 15, 2021, 7.875% Debentures due January 15, 2023, 6.625% Debentures due July 15, 2028 and 5.875% Notes due January 15, 2036, which we refer to herein as the Tender Offer Notes, in the cash tender offers described in Summary Cash Tender Offers, plus pay accrued and unpaid interest on such Tender Offer Notes, any tender premiums and related fees and expenses, and to redeem all 6.375% Notes due June 15, 2014, which we refer to herein as the 2014 Notes, not accepted for purchase in the cash tender offers in accordance with their terms. If the cash tender offers or redemption of the 2014 Notes are not completed, or there are any remaining net proceeds that are not so applied, then we expect to use the remaining proceeds from this offering for general corporate purposes. Pending such application, we may invest the net proceeds in short-term investments.

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The following table sets forth our cash and cash equivalents and our capitalization as of March 31, 2013 (i) on a historical basis, (ii) as adjusted to give effect to the offering of the Notes, and (iii) as further adjusted to reflect our anticipated use of proceeds from the offering of the Notes, as described in Use of Proceeds. This table should be read in conjunction with, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to, our audited consolidated financial statements and the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements and the related notes thereto incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement.

	Actual	As of March 31, 2013	
		As Adjusted (1)	As Further Adjusted (2)
		(in millions)	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 65.1	\$	\$
Short-term debt (including current portion of long-term debt)	192.0	192.0	192.0
Long-term debt:			
4 ⁷ / ₈ % Notes, Due 2013	180.5	180.5	180.5
6 ³ / ₈ % Notes, Due 2014	326.4	326.4	
5 ³ / ₈ % Notes, Due 2016	400.0	400.0	400.0
1 ⁷ / ₈ % Notes, Due 2017	300.0	300.0	300.0
8 ⁵ / ₈ % Debentures, Due 2021	59.3	59.3	56.7
3 ¹ / ₄ % Notes, Due 2022	300.0	300.0	300.0
7 ⁷ / ₈ % Debentures, Due 2023	113.8	113.8	112.2
6 ⁵ / ₈ % Debentures, Due 2028	200.0	200.0	184.3
5 ⁷ / ₈ % Notes, Due 2036	300.0	300.0	162.0
Miscellaneous	24.7	24.7	24.7
2018 Notes offered hereby			
2023 Notes offered hereby			
Total	2,204.7		
Less current portion	181.9	181.9	181.9
Total long-term debt	2,022.8		
Total stockholders' equity	4,678.2	4,678.2	4,678.2
Total capitalization	6,893.0		

- (1) As adjusted amount reflects our receipt of the net proceeds from the offering of the Notes. It does not give effect to our anticipated use of those proceeds, as described in Use of Proceeds.
- (2) As further adjusted amount reflects our anticipated use of the net proceeds from the offering of the Notes, as described in Use of Proceeds. It assumes that (a) we purchase the following amounts of the Tender Offer Notes that have been validly tendered and not validly withdrawn at or prior to 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on May 31, 2013: \$78.1 million aggregate principal amount of 6.375% Notes due 2014; \$2.6 million aggregate principal amount of 8.625% Debentures due 2021; \$1.6 million aggregate principal amount of 7.875% Debentures due 2023; \$15.7 million aggregate principal amount of 6.625% Debentures due 2028; and \$138.0 million aggregate principal amount of 5.875% Notes due 2036; and (b) we redeem, in accordance with their terms, all of the 2014 Notes not accepted for purchase pursuant to the tender offers. There can be no assurance that the above amounts accurately reflect the final results of the tender offers, which will expire at 11:59 p.m., New York City time, on June 14, 2013, unless extended or earlier terminated by us.

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The following table sets forth the ratio of earnings to fixed charges for Beam Inc. for each of the periods indicated:

	Three-Months Ended March 31, 2013	2012	Year Ended December 31,			
			2011	2010	2009	2008
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	6.48	5.32	1.85	2.50	2.04	3.38
Pro forma ratio of earnings to fixed charges*						

For the purpose of computing the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, earnings means:

income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes, minority interests and extraordinary items;

plus fixed charges;

less capitalized interest;

less income (loss) of equity investees;

less preferred dividends of consolidated subsidiaries.

Fixed charges means the sum of the following:

interest expense (including capitalized interest) on all indebtedness;

amortization of debt discount and expenses;

that portion of rental expense which we believe to be representative of an interest factor; and

preferred dividends of consolidated subsidiaries.

For each of the years ended December 31, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011, fixed charges include amounts from both continuing and discontinued operations.

* The pro forma ratio assumes that (a) we purchase the following amounts of the Tender Offer Notes that have been validly tendered and not validly withdrawn at or prior to 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on May 31, 2013: \$78.1 million aggregate principal amount of 6.375% Notes due 2014; \$2.6 million aggregate principal amount of 8.625% Debentures due 2021; \$1.6 million aggregate principal amount of 7.875% Debentures due 2023; \$15.7 million aggregate principal amount of 6.625% Debentures due 2028; and \$138.0 million aggregate principal amount of 5.875% Notes due 2036; and (b) we redeem, in accordance with their terms, all of the 2014 Notes not accepted for purchase

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pursuant to the tender offers. There can be no assurance that the above amounts accurately reflect the final results of the tender offers, which will expire at 11:59 p.m., New York City time, on June 14, 2013, unless extended or earlier terminated by us.

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We will issue the Notes under an indenture dated as of April 15, 1999, between us and The Bank of New York Mellon (successor to The Chase Manhattan Bank), as trustee (the "indenture"). The Notes will constitute two separate series of Notes under the indenture. The following is a summary of some, but not all, provisions of the Notes and the indenture. The following description of the particular terms of the Notes supplements the description in the accompanying prospectus of the general terms and provisions of our debt securities. We urge you to read the indenture because it defines your rights as a holder of the Notes. The terms of the Notes include those stated in the indenture and those made part of the indenture by reference to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended. A copy of the indenture has been filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which the accompanying prospectus is a part.

We will issue the Notes in fully registered form, without coupons, in minimum denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof. Initially, the Notes of each series will be issued in the form of one or more global notes registered in the name of DTC or its nominee, as described below. The trustee will initially act as paying agent and registrar for the Notes. The Notes may be presented for registration or transfer and exchange at the offices of the registrar. We may change any paying agent and registrar without notice to the holders of the Notes. We will pay principal (and premium, if any) on the Notes at the paying agent's corporate office in New York, New York. At our option, interest may be paid at the paying agent's corporate trust office or by check mailed to the registered address of holders.

Principal, Maturity and Interest

The 2018 Notes will initially be \$_____ in aggregate principal amount, and the 2023 Notes will initially be \$_____ in aggregate principal amount. The 2018 Notes will mature on _____, 2018, and the 2023 Notes will mature on _____, 2023. Interest on the 2018 Notes will accrue at the rate of _____% per annum, and interest on the 2023 Notes will accrue at the rate of _____% per annum. Interest on the Notes will be payable semiannually in arrears in cash on each _____ and _____, commencing on _____, 2013, to the persons who are registered holders on each _____ and _____, respectively. Interest on the Notes will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year comprised of twelve 30-day months. Interest on the Notes will accrue from the most recent date to which interest has been paid or, if no interest has been paid, from and including _____, 2013.

Ranking

Each series of Notes will be our unsecured senior obligations and will rank equally with our other existing and future unsecured senior indebtedness.

Optional Redemption

Each series of Notes may be redeemed in whole at any time or in part from time to time, at our option, at a redemption price equal to the greater of:

100% of the principal amount of the Notes of such series then outstanding to be redeemed; or

the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest on the Notes of such series to be redeemed (not including any portion of such payments of interest accrued to but excluding the date of redemption) discounted to but excluding the date of redemption on a semiannual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) at the applicable treasury rate plus _____ basis points, in the case of the 2018 Notes, plus _____ basis points, in the case of the 2023 Notes,

plus, in each case, accrued and unpaid interest on the principal amount being redeemed to but excluding the redemption date.

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In addition, on and after _____, 2023 (90 days prior to the maturity date of the 2023 Notes), we may redeem the 2023 Notes at our option, at any time and from time to time, either in whole or in part, at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the 2023 Notes to be redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest to but excluding the date of redemption.

Comparable treasury issue means the U.S. Treasury security selected by an independent investment banker as having a maturity comparable to the remaining term (remaining life) of the applicable Notes to be redeemed that would be utilized, at the time of selection and in accordance with customary financial practice, in pricing new issues of corporate debt securities of comparable maturity to the remaining term of such Notes.

Comparable treasury price means (1) the average of five reference treasury dealer quotations for such redemption date, after excluding the highest and lowest reference treasury dealer quotations, or (2) if the independent investment banker obtains fewer than four such reference treasury dealer quotations, the average of all such quotations.

Independent investment banker means Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC or Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, as specified by us, or, if these firms are unwilling or unable to select the comparable treasury issue, an independent investment banking institution of national standing appointed by us.

Reference treasury dealer means (1) Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated and their respective successors; *provided, however*, that if any of the foregoing shall cease to be a primary U.S. government securities dealer in New York City (a primary treasury dealer), we will substitute therefor another primary treasury dealer and (2) any other primary treasury dealer selected by us after consultation with the independent investment banker.

Reference treasury dealer quotations means, with respect to each reference treasury dealer and any redemption date, the average, as determined by the independent investment banker, of the bid and asked prices for the comparable treasury issue (expressed in each case as a percentage of its principal amount) quoted in writing to the independent investment banker at 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the third business day preceding such redemption date.

Treasury rate means, with respect to any redemption date:

the yield, under the heading which represents the average for the immediately preceding week, appearing in the most recently published statistical release designated H.15(519) or any successor publication which is published weekly by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and which establishes yields on actively traded U.S. Treasury securities adjusted to constant maturity under the caption Treasury Constant Maturities, for the maturity corresponding to the comparable treasury issue (if no maturity is within three months before or after the remaining life (as defined above), yields for the two published maturities most closely corresponding to the comparable treasury issue will be determined and the treasury rate will be interpolated or extrapolated from such yields on a straight line basis, rounding to the nearest month); or

if such release (or any successor release) is not published during the week preceding the calculation date or does not contain such yields, the rate per annum equal to the semiannual equivalent yield to maturity of the comparable treasury issue, calculated using a price for the comparable treasury issue (expressed as a percentage of its principal amount) equal to the comparable treasury price for such redemption date.

The treasury rate will be calculated by the independent investment banker on the third business day preceding the date fixed for redemption.

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We will mail a notice of redemption to each holder of the Notes to be redeemed by first-class mail at least 30 and not more than 60 days prior to the date fixed for redemption. Unless we default on payment of the redemption price, interest will cease to accrue on the Notes, or portions thereof, called for redemption on the redemption date. If fewer than all the Notes of any series are to be redeemed, the trustee will select, not more than 60 days prior to the redemption date, the particular Notes of such series, or portions thereof, for redemption from the outstanding Notes of such series, not previously called by such method as the trustee deems fair and appropriate.

The indenture permits the defeasance of Debt Securities upon the satisfaction of the conditions described under Description of Debt Securities Defeasance in the accompanying prospectus. The Notes are subject to these defeasance provisions.

Change of Control Offer

If a change of control triggering event occurs with respect to the Notes, unless we have exercised our option to redeem the Notes as described above, we will be required to make an offer (a change of control offer) to each holder of the Notes with respect to which a change of control triggering event has occurred to repurchase all or any part of that holder's Notes in integral multiples of \$1,000 (with any portion of such holder's Notes not repurchased to be in a minimum denomination of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof) on the terms set forth in the Notes. In a change of control offer, we will be required to offer payment in cash equal to 101% of the aggregate principal amount of Notes repurchased, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on the Notes repurchased to but excluding the date of repurchase (a change of control payment).

Within 30 days following any change of control triggering event or, at our option, prior to any change of control, but after public announcement of the transaction that constitutes or may constitute the change of control, a notice will be mailed to holders of the Notes describing the transaction that constitutes or may constitute the change of control triggering event and offering to repurchase the Notes on the date specified in the applicable notice, which date will be no earlier than 30 days and no later than 60 days from the date such notice is mailed (a change of control payment date). The notice will, if mailed prior to the date of consummation of the change of control, state that the change of control offer is conditioned on the change of control triggering event occurring on or prior to the applicable change of control payment date.

Upon the change of control payment date, we will, to the extent lawful:

accept for payment all Notes or portions of Notes properly tendered and not withdrawn pursuant to the applicable change of control offer;

deposit with the paying agent an amount equal to the change of control payment in respect of all Notes or portions of Notes properly tendered; and

deliver or cause to be delivered to the trustee the Notes properly accepted together with an officers' certificate stating the aggregate principal amount of Notes or portions of Notes of each series being repurchased.

We will not be required to make a change of control offer upon the occurrence of a change of control triggering event if a third party makes such an offer in the manner, at the times and otherwise in compliance with the requirements for an offer made by us, and the third party repurchases all Notes properly tendered and not withdrawn under its offer. In addition, we will not repurchase any Notes if there has occurred and is continuing on the change of control payment date an event of default under the indenture, other than a default in the payment of the change of control payment upon a change of control triggering event.

We will comply with the requirements of Rule 14e-1 under the Exchange Act, and any other securities laws and regulations thereunder to the extent those laws and regulations are applicable in connection with the repurchase of the Notes as a result of a change of control triggering event. To the extent that the provisions of

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any securities laws or regulations conflict with the change of control offer provisions of the Notes, we will comply with those securities laws and regulations and will not be deemed to have breached our obligations under the change of control offer provisions of the Notes by virtue of any such conflict.

Change of control means the occurrence of any of the following: (1) the direct or indirect sale, lease, transfer, conveyance or other disposition (other than by way of merger or consolidation), in one or more series of related transactions, of all or substantially all of our assets and the assets of our subsidiaries, taken as a whole, to any person, other than our company or one of our subsidiaries; (2) the consummation of any transaction (including, without limitation, any merger or consolidation) the result of which is that any person becomes the beneficial owner (as defined in Rules 13d-3 and 13d-5 under the Exchange Act), directly or indirectly, of more than 50% of our outstanding voting stock or other voting stock into which our voting stock is reclassified, consolidated, exchanged or changed measured by voting power rather than number of shares; (3) we consolidate with, or merge with or into, any person, or any person consolidates with, or merges with or into, us, in any such event pursuant to a transaction in which any of our outstanding voting stock or the voting stock of such other person is converted into or exchanged for cash, securities or other property, other than any such transaction where the shares of our voting stock outstanding immediately prior to such transaction constitute, or are converted into or exchanged for, a majority of the voting stock of the surviving person or any direct or indirect parent company of the surviving person, immediately after giving effect to such transaction; or (4) the adoption of a plan relating to our liquidation or dissolution.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, a transaction will not be deemed to involve a change of control under clause (2) above if (i) we become a direct or indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of a holding company and (ii)(A) the direct or indirect holders of the voting stock of such holding company immediately following that transaction are substantially the same as the holders of our voting stock immediately prior to that transaction or (B) immediately following that transaction no person (other than a holding company satisfying the requirements of this sentence) is the beneficial owner, directly or indirectly, of more than 50% of the voting stock of such holding company. The term person, as used in this definition, has the meaning given thereto in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act.

Change of control triggering event with respect to a series of the Notes means the occurrence of both a change of control and a rating event with respect to such series of the Notes.

Fitch means Fitch Inc., and its successors.

Index debt means senior, unsecured, long-term indebtedness for borrowed money of Beam that is not guaranteed by any other person or subject to any other credit enhancement.

Investment grade rating means a rating equal to or higher than BBB- (or the equivalent) by Fitch, a rating equal to or higher than Baa3 (or the equivalent) by Moody's and a rating equal to or higher than BBB- (or the equivalent) by S&P, and a rating equal to or higher than the equivalent investment grade credit rating from any replacement rating agency or rating agencies selected by us.

Moody's means Moody's Investors Service, Inc., and its successors.

Rating agencies means, with respect to a series of Notes, (1) each of Fitch, Moody's and S&P and (2) if any of Fitch, Moody's or S&P ceases to rate such series of the Notes or fails to make a rating of such series of the Notes publicly available for reasons outside of our control, a substitute rating agency as a replacement agency for any of Fitch, Moody's or S&P, or all of them, as the case may be.

Rating event means, with respect to a series of Notes, the rating on such series of the Notes is lowered by each of the rating agencies then rating such series of the Notes and such series of the Notes are rated below an investment grade rating by each of the rating agencies then rating such series of the Notes on any day within the 60-day period (which 60-day period will be extended so long as the rating of such series of the Notes is under

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publicly announced consideration for a possible downgrade by any of the rating agencies then rating such series of the Notes) after the earlier of (a) the occurrence of a change of control and (b) public notice of the occurrence of a change of control or our intention to effect a change of control; *provided* that a rating event will not be deemed to have occurred in respect of a particular change of control (and thus will not be deemed a rating event for purposes of the definition of change of control triggering event) if each rating agency making the reduction in rating does not publicly announce or confirm or inform the trustee in writing at our request that the reduction was the result, in whole or in part, of any event or circumstance comprised of or arising as a result of, or in respect of, the change of control (whether or not the applicable change of control has occurred at the time of the rating event).

S&P means Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., and its successors.

Substitute rating agency means a nationally recognized statistical rating organization within the meaning of Rule 15c3-1(c)(2)(vi)(F) under the Exchange Act selected by us (as certified by a resolution of our Board of Directors) as a replacement agency for any one or more of the rating agencies.

Voting stock means, with respect to any specified person (as that term is used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act) as of any date, the capital stock of such person that is at the time entitled to vote generally in the election of the board of directors of such person.

The definition of change of control includes a phrase relating to the direct or indirect sale, lease, transfer, conveyance or other disposition of all or substantially all of our assets and those of our subsidiaries taken as a whole. Although there is a limited body of case law interpreting the phrase substantially all there is no precise established definition of the phrase under applicable law. Accordingly, the ability of a holder of Notes to require us to repurchase its Notes as a result of a sale, lease, transfer, conveyance or other disposition of less than all of our assets and those of our subsidiaries taken as a whole to another person or group may be uncertain.

Further Issuances

We may, from time to time, without notice to or the consent of the holders of either series of the Notes, increase the aggregate principal amount of either series of Notes under the indenture and issue such increased principal amount (or any portion thereof), in which case any additional notes so issued will have the same form and terms (other than the date of issuance and, under certain circumstances, the date from which interest thereon will begin to accrue), and will carry the same right to receive principal and accrued and unpaid interest, as the Notes of the applicable series previously issued, and such additional notes will form a single series with the Notes of such series offered under this prospectus supplement; provided that if the additional notes are not fungible with the 2018 Notes or the 2023 Notes, as the case may be, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the additional notes will have a separate CUSIP number.

Book-Entry System

As described more fully under Description of Debt Securities Global Securities in the accompanying prospectus, each series of Notes will initially be represented by one or more global securities (Global Securities) that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, and registered in the name of The Depository Trust Company (DTC), or its nominee, for the accounts of its participants, including Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V., as operator of the Euroclear System (Euroclear), and Clearstream Banking, S.A. (Clearstream). Except as noted below, the Global Securities may not be transferred except as a whole by DTC to a nominee of DTC or by a nominee of DTC or to another nominee of DTC, or by DTC or any nominee to a successor of DTC or such successor. All Notes will be denominated in United States dollars.

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So long as DTC or its nominee is the registered owner of a Global Security, DTC or its nominee, as the case may be, will be the sole holder of the Notes represented thereby for all purposes under the indenture. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the beneficial owners of a Global Security representing Notes will not be entitled to receive physical delivery of certificated Notes and will not be considered the holders thereof for any purpose under the indenture, and a Global Security representing Notes shall not be exchangeable or transferable. Accordingly, each person owning a beneficial interest in a Global Security must rely on the procedures of DTC and, if such person is not a participant, on the procedures of the participant through which such person owns its interest, in order to exercise any rights of a holder under the indenture. The laws of some jurisdictions require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of such securities in certificated form. Such limits and such laws may impair the ability to transfer beneficial interests in a Global Security representing Notes.

The Global Securities representing the Notes are exchangeable for certificated Notes of like tenor and terms and of differing authorized denominations aggregating a like amount, only if:

DTC notifies us that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depository for the Global Security and we have not appointed a successor within 90 calendar days;

DTC ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and we have not appointed a successor within 90 calendar days;

we determine that the Global Security shall be exchangeable for definitive Notes in registered form; or

there shall have occurred and be continuing an Event of Default under the indenture with respect to the Notes.

Upon any such exchange, the certificated Notes shall be registered in the names of the beneficial owners of the Global Security representing the Notes as provided by DTC's relevant participants (as identified by DTC).

The description of the operations and procedures of DTC set forth below are provided solely as a matter of convenience. These operations and procedures are solely within the control of the respective settlement systems and are subject to change by them from time to time. Neither we nor the underwriters take any responsibility for these operations or procedures, and investors are urged to contact the relevant system or its participants directly to discuss these matters.

The following is based on information furnished by DTC:

DTC is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the laws of the State of New York, a banking organization within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a clearing corporation within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code, and a clearing agency registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Exchange Act. DTC holds securities that its participants deposit with DTC. DTC also facilitates the settlement among participants of securities transactions, such as transfers and pledges, in deposited securities through electronic computerized book-entry changes in participants' accounts, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of securities certificates. Direct participants include securities brokers and dealers (including one or more of the underwriters), banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations. DTC is owned by a number of its direct participants and by NYSE Euronext and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority. Access to DTC's system is available to securities brokers and dealers, banks and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a direct participant, either directly or indirectly.

Persons who are not participants may beneficially own the Notes held by DTC only through direct participants or indirect participants. Purchases of the Notes under DTC's system must be made by or through direct participants, which will receive a credit for such Notes on DTC's records. The ownership interest of each actual purchaser of each Note represented by a Global Security (Beneficial Owner) is in turn to be recorded on the direct participants' and indirect participants' records.

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Beneficial Owners will not receive written confirmation from DTC of their purchase, but Beneficial Owners are expected to receive written confirmations providing details of the transaction, as well as periodic statements of their holdings, from the direct participants or indirect participants through which such Beneficial Owner entered into the transaction. Transfers of ownership interests in a Global Security representing Notes are to be accomplished by entries made on the books of participants acting on behalf of Beneficial Owners. Beneficial Owners of a Global Security representing Notes will not receive certificated Notes representing their ownership interests therein, except in the event that use of the book-entry system for such the Notes is discontinued.

Principal and interest payments on Global Securities representing the Notes will be made to DTC. DTC's practice is to credit direct participants' accounts on the applicable payment date in accordance with their respective holdings shown on DTC's records unless DTC has reason to believe that it will not receive payment on such date. Payments by participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in street name, and will be the responsibility of such participant and not of DTC, the trustee or the Company, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest to DTC is our and the trustee's responsibility, disbursement of such payments to direct participants is the responsibility of DTC, and disbursement of such payments to the Beneficial Owners is the responsibility of direct participants and indirect participants.

DTC may discontinue providing its services as securities depository with respect to the Notes at any time by giving reasonable notice to us or the trustee. Under such circumstances, in the event that a successor securities depository is not obtained, certificated Notes are required to be printed and delivered.

The information in this section concerning DTC and DTC's system has been obtained from sources that we believe to be reliable, but we take no responsibility for the accuracy thereof. Transfers between participants in DTC will be effected in accordance with DTC's procedures and will be settled in same-day funds.

Clearstream and Euroclear have provided us with the following information and neither we nor the underwriters take any responsibility for its accuracy:

Clearstream

Clearstream is incorporated under the laws of Luxembourg as a professional depository. Clearstream holds securities for its participating organizations and facilitates the clearance and settlement of securities transactions between Clearstream participants through electronic book-entry changes in accounts of Clearstream participants, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of certificates. Clearstream provides to Clearstream participants, among other things, services for safekeeping, administration, clearance and settlement of internationally traded securities and securities lending and borrowing. Clearstream interfaces with domestic securities markets in several countries. As a professional depository, Clearstream is subject to regulation by the Luxembourg Commission for the Supervision of the Financial Sector (Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier). Clearstream participants include underwriters, securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations and may include the underwriters. Clearstream's U.S. participants are limited to securities brokers and dealers and banks. Indirect access to Clearstream is also available to others, such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Clearstream participant either directly or indirectly.

Distributions with respect to Notes held beneficially through Clearstream will be credited to cash accounts of Clearstream participants in accordance with its rules and procedures, to the extent received by the U.S. depository for Clearstream.

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Euroclear

Euroclear was created in 1968 to hold securities for participants of Euroclear and to clear and settle transactions between Euroclear participants through simultaneous electronic book-entry delivery against payment, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of certificates and any risk from lack of simultaneous transfers of securities and cash. Euroclear performs various other services, including securities lending and borrowing and interacts with domestic markets in several countries. Euroclear is operated by Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V. under contract with Euroclear plc, a U.K. corporation. All operations are conducted by the Euroclear operator, and all Euroclear securities clearance accounts and Euroclear cash accounts are accounts with the Euroclear operator, not Euroclear plc. Euroclear plc establishes policy for Euroclear on behalf of Euroclear participants. Euroclear participants include banks, including central banks, securities brokers and dealers and other professional financial intermediaries and may include the underwriters. Indirect access to Euroclear is also available to other firms that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Euroclear participant, either directly or indirectly.

The Euroclear operator is a Belgian bank. As such it is regulated by the Belgian Banking and Finance Commission.

Securities clearance accounts and cash accounts with the Euroclear operator are governed by the Terms and Conditions Governing Use of Euroclear and the related Operating Procedures of the Euroclear System, and applicable Belgian law (collectively, the Terms and Conditions). The Terms and Conditions govern transfers of securities and cash within Euroclear, withdrawals of securities and cash from Euroclear, and receipts of payments with respect to securities in Euroclear. All securities in Euroclear are held on a fungible basis without attribution of specific certificates to specific clearance accounts. The Euroclear operator acts under the Terms and Conditions only on behalf of Euroclear participants and has no record of or relationship with persons holding through Euroclear participants.

Distributions with respect to Notes held beneficially through Euroclear will be credited to the cash accounts of Euroclear participants in accordance with the Terms and Conditions, to the extent received by the U.S. depository for Euroclear.

Euroclear has further advised us that investors who acquire, hold and transfer interests in the Notes by bookentry through accounts with the Euroclear operator or any other securities intermediary are subject to the laws and contractual provisions governing their relationship with their intermediary, as well as the laws and contractual provisions governing the relationship between such an intermediary and each other intermediary, if any, standing between themselves and the global securities certificates.

Global Clearance and Settlement Procedures

Initial settlement for the Notes will be made in immediately available funds. Secondary market trading between DTC participants will occur in the ordinary way in accordance with DTC rules and will be settled in immediately available funds using DTC's Same Day Funds Settlement System. Secondary market trading between Clearstream participants and/or Euroclear participants will occur in the ordinary way in accordance with the applicable rules and operating procedures of Clearstream and Euroclear and will be settled using the procedures applicable to conventional eurobonds in immediately available funds.

Cross market transfers between persons holding directly or indirectly through DTC, on the one hand, and directly or indirectly through Clearstream participants or Euroclear participants, on the other, will be effected through DTC in accordance with DTC rules on behalf of the relevant European international clearing system by its U.S. depository; however, such cross market transactions will require delivery of instructions to the relevant European international clearing system by the counterparty in such system in accordance with its rules and procedures and within its established deadlines (European time). The relevant European international clearing system will, if the transaction meets its settlement requirements, deliver instructions to its U.S. depository to take

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action to effect final settlement on its behalf by delivering or receiving Notes through DTC, and making or receiving payment in accordance with normal procedures for same day funds settlement applicable to DTC. Clearstream participants and Euroclear participants may not deliver instructions directly to their respective U.S. depositories.

Because of time zone differences, credits of Notes received through Clearstream or Euroclear as a result of a transaction with a DTC participant will be made during subsequent securities settlement processing and dated the business day following the DTC settlement date. Such credits or any transactions in such Notes settled during such processing will be reported to the relevant Euroclear participants or Clearstream participants on such following business day. Cash received in Clearstream or Euroclear as a result of sales of Notes by or through a Clearstream participant or a Euroclear participant to a DTC participant will be received with value on the DTC settlement date but will be available in the relevant Clearstream or Euroclear cash account only as of the business day following settlement in DTC.

Although DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear have agreed to the foregoing procedures in order to facilitate transfers of Notes among participants of DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear, they are under no obligation to perform or continue to perform such procedures and such procedures may be modified or discontinued at any time. Neither we nor the paying agent will have any responsibility for the performance by DTC, Euroclear or Clearstream or their respective direct or indirect participants of their obligations under the rules and procedures governing their operations.

Governing Law

The indenture and the Notes shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York, without regard to the conflicts of laws principles thereof.

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UNDERWRITING

Subject to the terms and conditions contained in an underwriting agreement, dated as of the date of this prospectus supplement between us and the underwriters named below, for whom Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated are acting as representatives, we have agreed to sell to each underwriter, and each underwriter has severally agreed to purchase from us, the principal amount of Notes that appears opposite its name in the table below:

Underwriter	Principal Amount of 2018 Notes	Principal Amount of 2023 Notes
Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC		
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith		
Incorporated		
Barclays Capital Inc.		
J.P. Morgan Securities LLC		
RBS Securities Inc.		
Total	\$	\$

The underwriters are offering the Notes subject to their acceptance of the Notes from us and subject to prior sale. The underwriting agreement provides that the obligations of the several underwriters to pay for and accept delivery of the Notes offered by this prospectus supplement are subject to certain conditions. The underwriters are obligated to take and pay for all of the Notes offered by this prospectus supplement if any such Notes are taken.

The underwriters initially propose to offer the Notes to the public at the public offering prices that appear on the cover page of this prospectus supplement. In addition, the underwriters may offer the Notes to certain dealers at prices that represent a concession not in excess of % of the principal amount of the 2018 Notes and % of the principal amount of the 2023 Notes. Any underwriter may allow, and any such dealer may reallow, a concession to certain other dealers not in excess of % of the principal amount of the 2018 Notes and % of the principal amount of the 2023 Notes. After the initial offering of the Notes, the underwriters may from time to time vary the offering prices and other selling terms. The underwriters may offer and sell Notes through certain of their affiliates.

The following table shows the underwriting discount that we will pay to the underwriters in connection with the offering of the Notes:

	Paid by us
Per 2018 Note	%
Total	\$
Per 2023 Note	%
Total	\$

Expenses associated with this offering to be paid by us, other than underwriting discounts, are estimated to be approximately \$1.0 million.

We have also agreed to indemnify the underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute to payments which the underwriters may be required to make in respect of any such liabilities.

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Each series of the Notes is a new issue of securities, and there are currently no established trading markets for the Notes. We do not intend to apply for the Notes to be listed on any securities exchange or to arrange for the Notes to be quoted on any quotation system. The underwriters have advised us that they intend to make a market in the Notes of each series, but they are not obligated to do so. The underwriters may discontinue any market-making in the Notes at any time at their sole discretion. Accordingly, we cannot assure you that liquid trading markets will develop for the Notes, that you will be able to sell your Notes at a particular time or that the prices you receive when you sell will be favorable.

In connection with the offering of the Notes, the underwriters may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the prices of the Notes. Specifically, the underwriters may overallocate in connection with the offering of the Notes, creating syndicate short positions. In addition, the underwriters may bid for and purchase Notes in the open market to cover syndicate short positions or to stabilize the prices of the Notes. Finally, the underwriting syndicate may reclaim selling concessions allowed for distributing the Notes in the offering of the Notes, if the syndicate repurchases previously distributed Notes in syndicate covering transactions, stabilization transactions or otherwise. Any of these activities may stabilize or maintain the market prices of the Notes above independent market levels. The underwriters are not required to engage in any of these activities, and may end any of them at any time.

We expect that delivery of the Notes will be made against payment therefore on or about _____, 2013, which will be the fifth business day following the date of pricing of the Notes, or T+5. Under Rule 15c6-1 of the SEC under the Exchange Act, trades in the secondary market generally are required to settle in three business days, unless the parties to any such trade expressly agree otherwise. Accordingly, purchasers who wish to trade Notes on the date hereof or the next succeeding three business days will be required, by virtue of the fact that the Notes initially will settle in T+5, to specify an alternate settlement cycle at the time of any such trade to prevent a failed settlement and should consult their own advisor.

Other Relationships

From time to time in the ordinary course of their respective businesses, certain of the underwriters and their affiliates have engaged in, and may in the future engage in, commercial banking, derivatives and/or financial advisory, investment banking and other commercial transactions and dealings in the ordinary course of business with us and our affiliates for which they have received, or may in the future receive, customary fees and commissions.

Certain of the underwriters and their affiliates hold a portion of our notes that may be purchased by us pursuant to the cash tender offers described under Summary Cash Tender Offers, or that may be redeemed by us, in each case using the net proceeds of this offering as described in Use of Proceeds. As a result, those underwriters or their affiliates may receive a portion of the net proceeds of this offering to the extent such proceeds are used to purchase or redeem notes held by them.

In addition, in the ordinary course of their business activities, the underwriters and their affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers. Such investments and securities activities may involve securities and/or instruments of ours or our affiliates. Certain of the underwriters or their affiliates that have a lending relationship with us routinely hedge their credit exposure to us consistent with their customary risk management policies. Typically, such underwriters and their affiliates would hedge such exposure by entering into transactions which consist of either the purchase of credit default swaps or the creation of short positions in our securities, including potentially the Notes offered hereby. Any such short positions could adversely affect the future trading prices of the Notes offered hereby. The underwriters and their affiliates may also make investment recommendations and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or financial instruments and may hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long and/or short positions in such securities and instruments.

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Selling Restrictions

European Economic Area

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a Relevant Member State) an offer to the public of any Notes which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this prospectus supplement may not be made in that Relevant Member State, except that an offer to the public in that Relevant Member State of any Notes may be made at any time under the following exemptions under the Prospectus Directive, if they have been implemented in that Relevant Member State:

solely to any legal entities which are qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive;

to fewer than 100 or, if the Relevant Member State has implemented the relevant provision of the 2010 PD Amending Directive, 150, natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive), as permitted under the Prospectus Directive, subject to obtaining the prior consent of the bookrunner for any such offer; or

in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive, *provided* that no such offer of the Notes shall require us or any underwriter to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

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

United Kingdom

Each underwriter has represented and agreed that:

it has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (the FSMA)) received by it in connection with the issue or sale of the Notes in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the FSMA does not apply to the Company; and

it has complied and will comply with all applicable provisions of the FSMA with respect to anything done by it in relation to the Notes in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

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UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES

The following is a general discussion of the material United States federal income tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of the Notes. This discussion only applies to an investor that acquires the Notes of either series pursuant to this offering at the price applicable to the relevant series indicated on the cover of this prospectus supplement. This discussion is based upon the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), Treasury regulations and judicial decisions and administrative interpretations thereof, all as of the date hereof and all of which are subject to change, possibly with retroactive effect. We have not sought any rulings from the Internal Revenue Service (the IRS) with respect to the statements and conclusions reached in this summary. No assurance can be given that the IRS will agree with the views expressed in this summary, or that a court will not sustain any challenge by the IRS in the event of litigation.

This discussion is limited to investors that hold the Notes as capital assets (generally, as property held for investment) for United States federal income tax purposes. Furthermore, this discussion does not address all aspects of United States federal income taxation that may be applicable to investors in light of their particular circumstances, or to investors subject to special treatment under United States federal income tax law, such as banks and other financial institutions, insurance companies, regulated investment companies, real estate investment trusts, controlled foreign corporations, passive foreign investment companies, persons liable for alternative minimum tax, brokers, retirement plans, individual retirement accounts or other tax-deferred accounts, pension plans, subchapter S corporations, tax-exempt organizations, entities that are treated as partnerships for United States federal income tax purposes and their partners, dealers or traders in securities, expatriates and former long-term residents, United States Holders (as defined below) whose functional currency is not the United States dollar and persons that hold the Notes as part of a straddle, hedge, conversion transaction or other integrated investment. Furthermore, this discussion does not address any United States federal estate or gift tax consequences or any state, local or foreign tax consequences.

Investors considering the purchase of Notes should consult their own tax advisors with respect to the application of the United States federal income tax laws to their particular situations, as well as the application of the Medicare Contribution Tax, estate or gift tax laws or the laws of any state, local or non-United States taxing jurisdiction, or any applicable tax treaty.

For purposes of this discussion, the term United States Holder means a beneficial owner of the Notes that is (1) an individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States, (2) a corporation or other entity treated as a corporation for United States federal income tax purposes, in each case, that is created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or any political subdivision thereof, (3) a trust if it (i) is subject to the primary supervision of a United States court and the control of one or more United States persons or (ii) was in existence on August 20, 1996 and has a valid election in effect under applicable Treasury regulations to be treated as a United States person, or (4) an estate, the income of which is subject to United States federal income tax regardless of its source.

The term Non-United States Holder means a beneficial owner (other than a partnership for United States federal income tax purposes) of Notes that is not a United States Holder.

If a partnership (including any entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for United States federal income tax purposes) owns Notes, the tax treatment of a partner in the partnership will depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. Partners in a partnership that owns the Notes should consult their tax advisors as to the particular United States federal income tax consequences applicable to them.

Table of Contents**Consequences to United States Holders*****Additional payments***

In certain circumstances (see Description of the Notes Change of Control Offer), we may be obligated or elect to pay amounts in excess of stated interest or principal on the Notes. If any such payment is treated as a contingent payment, subject to certain exceptions, the Notes may be treated as contingent payment debt instruments, in which case the timing and amount of income inclusions and the character of income recognized may be different from the consequences discussed herein. Although the issue is not free from doubt, we intend to take the position that these contingencies are incidental or remote, and therefore that the possibility of such additional amounts payable on the Notes does not result in the Notes being treated as contingent payment debt instruments under applicable Treasury regulations. Therefore, we do not intend to treat the potential payment of a premium pursuant to the optional redemption or change of control provisions as part of the yield to maturity of the Notes. Our determination that these contingencies are remote or incidental is binding on a United States Holder, unless such United States Holder explicitly discloses to the IRS on its tax return for the year during which it acquires the Notes that it is taking a different position. However, our position is not binding on the IRS. If the IRS takes a position that is contrary to our position described above, a United States Holder may be required to accrue income on its Notes in excess of stated interest, and to treat as ordinary income rather than capital gain any income recognized on the taxable disposition of a Note. The discussion below assumes that the Notes will not be treated as contingent payment debt instruments.

Payments of interest

It is anticipated, and this discussion assumes, that the Notes will be issued without original issue discount for federal income tax purposes. In such case, interest on a Note will generally be treated as ordinary income at the time it is paid or accrued in accordance with a United States Holder's usual method of accounting for tax purposes. If, however, the Notes are issued for an amount less than the principal amount and the difference is more than a de minimis amount (as set forth in the Code), a United States Holder will be required to include the difference in income as original issue discount as it accrues in accordance with a constant-yield method based on a compounding of interest, before the receipt of cash payments attributable to this income.

Sale, exchange, redemption or other taxable disposition of Notes

A United States Holder will generally recognize gain or loss upon the sale, exchange, redemption or other taxable disposition of a Note equal to the difference between the amount realized (less any amount attributable to accrued but unpaid interest not previously taken into income which will be treated as a payment of that interest) upon such sale, exchange, redemption or other taxable disposition and such United States Holder's adjusted tax basis in the Note. A United States Holder's adjusted tax basis in a Note will generally be equal to the amount paid for the Note. Any gain or loss recognized on a taxable disposition of the Note will be capital gain or loss. If, at the time of the sale, exchange, redemption or other taxable disposition of the Note, a United States Holder is treated as holding the Note for more than one year, such gain or loss will generally be long-term capital gain or loss. Otherwise, such gain or loss will generally be short-term capital gain or loss. Under current law, for certain categories of non-corporate United States Holders (including individuals), long-term capital gain generally is subject to tax at a reduced rate of taxation. A United States Holder's ability to deduct capital losses may be limited.

Additional tax imposed on investment income

A 3.8% tax is imposed (the Medicare Contribution Tax), in addition to the income tax, on the net investment income of individuals, estates and trusts. Net investment income includes, among other items, interest, capital gains and business income from passive activities and commodity and financial instrument trading businesses. The Medicare Contribution Tax applies to the lesser of (a) the taxpayer's net investment income or (b) the excess of the taxpayer's modified adjusted gross income over a specified threshold (e.g., the

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threshold is \$250,000 for an individual filing a joint return and a surviving spouse). United States Holders are urged to consult their tax advisors as to the particular U.S. federal tax consequences to them of the application of this tax.

Information reporting and backup withholding

Information reporting requirements generally will apply to payments of interest on the Notes and to the proceeds from a sale of Notes unless a United States Holder is an exempt recipient. Backup withholding will apply to those payments if a United States Holder fails to provide its correct taxpayer identification number, or certification of exempt status, or if the United States Holder is notified by the IRS that it has failed to report in full payments of interest and dividend income. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules will be allowed as a refund or a credit against a United States Holder's federal income tax liability, provided the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

Consequences to Non-United States Holders

Stated interest

A Non-United States Holder generally will not be subject to United States federal income or withholding tax on payments of interest on the Notes provided the Non-United States Holder (A) does not actually or constructively own 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of our voting stock, (B) is not a controlled foreign corporation (within the meaning of the Code) related to us directly or constructively through stock ownership, (C) is not a bank that acquired the Notes in consideration for an extension of credit made pursuant to a loan agreement entered into in the ordinary course of business, and (D) satisfies certain certification requirements. Such certification requirements will generally be met if (x) the Non-United States Holder provides its name and address, and certifies on IRS Form W-8BEN (or a substantially similar form), under penalties of perjury, that it is not a United States person or (y) a securities clearing organization or certain other financial institutions holding the Note on behalf of the Non-United States Holder certifies on Form W-8IMY, under penalties of perjury, that such certification from the Non-United States Holder has been received by it and furnishes us or our paying agent or a relevant withholding agent with a copy thereof. In addition, the applicable withholding agent must not have actual knowledge or reason to know that the beneficial owner of the Note is a United States person. If a Non-United States Holder cannot satisfy the requirements outlined above, then interest on the Notes will generally be subject to United States withholding tax at a 30% rate unless such Non-United States Holder provides (A) a properly executed IRS Form W-8BEN (or other applicable form) claiming an exemption from or reduction in withholding pursuant to an applicable income tax treaty, or (B) IRS Form W-8ECI (or other applicable form) stating that interest paid on the Notes is not subject to withholding tax because it is effectively connected with the conduct by the Non-United States Holder of a trade or business in the United States.

If a Non-United States Holder is engaged in a trade or business in the United States, and interest on the Notes is effectively connected with the conduct of that trade or business, and, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, is attributable to a United States permanent establishment or fixed base, then, although the Non-United States Holder will be exempt from the 30% withholding tax provided the certification requirements discussed above are satisfied, such Non-United States Holder will be subject to United States federal income tax on that interest on a net-income basis in the same manner as if such Non-United States Holder were a United States Holder as described above. In addition, if a Non-United States Holder is a foreign corporation, such effectively connected income may, under certain circumstances, be subject to an additional branch profits tax at a 30% rate, or such lower rate as may be specified under an applicable income tax treaty.

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Disposition of the Notes

Subject to the discussion below concerning backup withholding, a Non-United States Holder will not be subject to United States federal income tax or withholding tax with respect to gain recognized on the disposition of the Notes (except with respect to amounts received on account of accrued but unpaid interest, which has the same tax treatment as payments of stated interest (discussed above)) unless:

the gain is effectively connected with the conduct by the Non-United States Holder of a United States trade or business (and, where an income tax treaty applies, is attributable to a United States permanent establishment or fixed base); or

the Non-United States Holder is an individual who is present in the United States for 183 or more days in the taxable year of the disposition and certain other conditions are satisfied.

A Non-United States Holder described in the first bullet point above will generally be subject to United States federal income tax on that gain on a net-income basis in the same manner as if such Non-United States Holder were a United States Holder as described above. In addition, if a Non-United States Holder is a foreign corporation, such effectively connected income may, under certain circumstances, be subject to an additional branch profits tax at a 30% rate, or such lower rate as may be specified under an applicable income tax treaty.

If a Non-United States Holder is described in the second bullet point above, any gain realized from the sale, exchange, redemption, retirement or other taxable disposition of the Notes will be subject to United States federal income tax at a 30% rate (or lower applicable treaty rate), which may be offset by certain United States-source capital losses.

Information reporting and backup withholding

We must report annually to the IRS and to a Non-United States Holder the amount of interest paid to the Non-United States Holder and the amount of tax, if any, withheld with respect to such interest. Unless the Non-United States Holder complies with certification procedures to establish that the Non-United States Holder is not a United States person, information returns may also be filed with the IRS in connection with the proceeds from a sale or other disposition of a Note. The IRS may make this information available to the tax authorities in the country in which the Non-United States Holder is a resident.

A Non-United States Holder may be subject to backup withholding with respect to interest payments on a Note, unless, generally, the Non-United States Holder certifies under penalties of perjury (usually on IRS Form W-8BEN) that the Non-United States Holder is not a United States person or the Non-United States Holder otherwise establishes an exemption.

No information reporting or backup withholding will be required regarding the proceeds of the sale of a Note made within the United States or conducted through certain United States related financial intermediaries if the Non-United States Holder certifies under penalties of perjury (usually on IRS Form W-8BEN) that the Non-United States Holder is not a United States person or the Non-United States Holder otherwise establishes an exemption.

Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding tax rules will be allowed as a refund or a credit against the Non-United States Holder's United States federal income tax liability, provided the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

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LEGAL OPINION

The legality of the Notes will be passed upon for us by Chadbourne & Parke LLP, New York, New York, and the legality of the Notes will be passed upon for the underwriters by Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, New York, New York.

EXPERTS

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

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PROSPECTUS

Debt Securities

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Warrants To Purchase Debt Securities

Warrants To Purchase Common Stock

Warrants To Purchase Preferred Stock

This prospectus describes some of the general terms that may apply to securities that we may issue and sell at various times. Please note that:

Prospectus supplements will be filed and other offering materials may be provided at later dates that will contain specific terms of each issuance of securities.

You should read this prospectus and any prospectus supplements or other offering materials filed or provided by us carefully before you decide to invest.

We may sell the securities to or through underwriters, and also to other purchasers or through agents. The names of the underwriters will be stated in an applicable prospectus supplement or other offering materials. We may also sell securities directly to investors. Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol BEAM. Any common stock that we may sell pursuant to this prospectus will be listed on the New York Stock Exchange upon official notice of issuance.

Investing in our securities involves certain risks. You should carefully consider the risks described under Risk Factors in Part I, Item 1A of our most recent annual report on Form 10-K, which is incorporated by reference herein, as well as other risk factor information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or in any prospectus supplement before making a decision to invest in our securities. See Risk Factors on page 3 of this prospectus.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is April 27, 2012.

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You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement or the documents incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of each of those documents. As used in this prospectus the terms the Company, Beam, we, us, and our may, depending upon the context, refer to Beam Inc., our consolidated subsidiaries, or to all of them taken as a whole.

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FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act). All statements, other than statements of historical facts, included or incorporated herein regarding our strategy, future operations, financial position, future revenues, projected costs, prospects, plans and objectives are forward-looking statements. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terminology such as anticipates, believes, continues, estimates, expects, forecasts, goal, intends, m opportunity, plans, potential, projects, seeks, should, strives, targets, will, would, and similar expressions or expressions of th terms. Such statements are only predictions and, accordingly, are subject to substantial risks, uncertainties and assumptions.

We intend for our forward-looking statements to be covered by the safe harbor provisions for forward-looking statements contained in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, and we set forth this statement in order to comply with those safe harbor provisions. Although we believe that the expectations, plans, intentions, and projections reflected in our forward-looking statements are reasonable, those statements are subject to known and unknown risks, uncertainties, and other factors that may cause our actual results, performance, or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance, or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. The risks, uncertainties, and other factors that our stockholders and prospective investors should consider include, but are not limited to, the following:

general economic conditions and credit market instability, particularly in Europe;

competitive market pressures (including pricing pressures);

changes in consumer preferences and trends;

risks pertaining to strategic acquisitions, joint ventures, and alliances, particularly financial and integration risks;

commodity and energy price volatility;

risks associated with doing business outside the United States, including currency exchange risks;

inability to attract and retain qualified personnel;

the impact of excise tax increases and customs duties on distilled spirits or changes to government financial incentives;

dependence on performance of distributors and other marketing arrangements;

customer defaults and related bad debt expense;

any possible downgrades of our credit ratings;

costs of certain employee and retiree benefits and returns on pensions assets;