

HERCULES TECHNOLOGY GROWTH CAPITAL INC

Form 497

May 29, 2007

Table of Contents

Filed Pursuant to Rule 497
Registration Statement No. 333-141828

This preliminary prospectus supplement relates to an effective registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933, but 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 state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED MAY 29, 2007

PRELIMINARY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT TO PROSPECTUS DATED MAY 16, 2007

8,000,000 Shares

Common Stock

We are offering 8,000,000 shares of our common stock. Our common stock is listed on the Nasdaq Global Market under the symbol HTGC. The last reported sale price on May 23, 2007 was \$14.51 per share. We are an internally-managed, non-diversified closed-end investment company that has elected to be treated as a business development company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended.

The underwriters have an option to purchase a maximum of 1,200,000 additional shares to cover over-allotments of shares.

Please read this prospectus supplement, and the accompanying prospectus, before investing, and keep it for future reference. The prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus contain important information about us that a prospective investor should know before investing in our common stock. We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information about us with the Securities and Exchange Commission. This information is available free of charge by contacting us at 400 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 310, Palo Alto, California 94301, or by telephone by calling collect at (650) 289-3060 or on our website at www.herculestech.com. The information on our website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus or the accompanying prospectus. The SEC also maintains a website at www.sec.gov that contains such information.

An investment in our common stock involves risks, including the risk of a total loss of investment. In addition, the companies in which we invest are subject to special risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page 12 of the accompanying prospectus to read about risks that you should consider before investing in our common stock, including the risk of leverage.

	Price to Public	Underwriting Discounts and Commissions	Proceeds to us(1)
Per Share	\$	\$	\$
Total	\$	\$	\$

(1) Expenses payable by us are estimated to be \$250,000.
Delivery of the shares of common stock will be made on or about _____, 2007.

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

Credit Suisse

Sole Bookrunning Manager

JMP Securities

Joint Lead Manager

A.G. Edwards

Piper Jaffray

Ferris, Baker Watts

Incorporated

The date of this prospectus supplement is _____, 2007.

Table of Contents**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	Page
PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT	
<u>FEES AND EXPENSES</u>	S-2
<u>PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY</u>	S-4
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	S-10
<u>UNDERWRITING</u>	S-11
<u>NOTICE TO CANADIAN RESIDENTS</u>	S-14
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	S-15
PROSPECTUS	
<u>SUMMARY</u>	1
<u>FEES AND EXPENSES</u>	8
<u>SELECTED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA</u>	10
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	12
<u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS; MARKET DATA</u>	29
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	30
<u>PRICE RANGE OF COMMON STOCK AND DISTRIBUTIONS</u>	31
<u>MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS</u>	33
<u>BUSINESS</u>	50
<u>PORTFOLIO COMPANIES</u>	63
<u>SENIOR SECURITIES</u>	76
<u>DETERMINATION OF NET ASSET VALUE</u>	76
<u>MANAGEMENT</u>	78
<u>CONTROL PERSONS AND PRINCIPAL STOCKHOLDERS</u>	95
<u>CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS</u>	98
<u>CERTAIN UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS</u>	100
<u>REGULATION</u>	108
<u>DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT PLAN</u>	113
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u>	114
<u>SELLING SHAREHOLDERS</u>	122
<u>SHARES ELIGIBLE FOR FUTURE SALE</u>	123
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	123
<u>BROKERAGE ALLOCATION AND OTHER PRACTICES</u>	124
<u>CUSTODIAN, TRANSFER AND DIVIDEND PAYING AGENT AND REGISTRAR</u>	125
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	125
<u>EXPERTS</u>	125
<u>AVAILABLE INFORMATION</u>	125
<u>INDEX TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</u>	F-1

You should rely only on the information contained in this document or to which we have referred you. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information that is different. This document may only be used where it is legal to sell these securities. The information in this document may only be accurate on the date of this document.

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the terms of this offering of common stock and also adds to and updates information contained in the accompanying prospectus. The second part is the accompanying prospectus, which gives more information. To the extent the information contained in this prospectus supplement, differs from the information contained in the accompanying prospectus the information in this prospectus supplement shall control.

Edgar Filing: HERCULES TECHNOLOGY GROWTH CAPITAL INC - Form 497

Unless the context requires otherwise, in this prospectus supplement the terms we, us, and/or the Company refer to Hercules Technology Growth Capital, Inc. and its subsidiaries.

S-1

Table of Contents**FEES AND EXPENSES**

The following table is intended to assist you in understanding the various costs and expenses that an investor in our common stock will bear directly or indirectly assuming that the underwriters do not exercise their over-allotment option. However, we caution you that some of the percentages indicated in the table below are estimates and may vary. Except where the context suggests otherwise, whenever this prospectus contains a reference to fees or expenses paid by you or us or that we will pay fees or expenses, stockholders will indirectly bear such fees or expenses as investors in Hercules Technology Growth Capital.

Stockholder Transaction Expenses (as a percentage of the public offering price):

Sales load (as a percentage of offering price) ⁽¹⁾	5.0%
Offering expenses	0.2% ⁽²⁾
Dividend reinvestment plan fees	0.2%
Total stockholder transaction expenses (as a percentage of the public offering price)	5.2%

Annual Expenses (as a percentage of net assets attributable to common stock):⁽⁴⁾

Operating expenses	5.1% ⁽⁵⁾⁽⁶⁾
Interest payments on borrowed funds	2.8% ⁽⁷⁾
Fees paid in connection with borrowed funds	0.3% ⁽⁸⁾
Acquired fund fees and expenses ⁽⁹⁾	%
Total annual expenses	8.2% ⁽¹⁰⁾

(1) Represents the underwriting discount with respect to the shares to be sold by us in this offering.

(2) The percentage reflects estimated offering expenses of approximately \$250,000.

(3) The expenses associated with the administration of our dividend reinvestment plan are included in Operating expenses. We pay all brokerage commissions incurred with respect to open market purchases, if any, made by the administrator under the plan. For more details about the plan, see Dividend Reinvestment Plan.

(4) Average net assets attributable to common stock equals estimated weighted average net assets for 2007 which is approximately \$265.6 million.

(5) Operating expenses represent our estimated expenses for the year ending December 31, 2007. This percentage for the year ended December 31, 2006, was approximately 8.4%.

(6) We do not have an investment adviser and are internally managed by our executive officers under the supervision of our Board of Directors. As a result, we do not pay investment advisory fees, but instead we pay the operating costs associated with employing investment management professionals.

(7) Interest payments on borrowed funds represents estimated annualized interest payments on borrowed funds for 2007. Citigroup has an equity participation right through a warrant participation agreement on the pool of loans, warrants and shares underlying the warrants collateralized under the Citigroup facility. Pursuant to the warrant participation agreement, we granted to Citigroup a 10% participation in all warrants held as collateral. As a result, Citigroup is entitled to 10% of the realized gains on the warrants until the realized gains paid to Citigroup pursuant to the agreement equals \$3,750,000 (the Maximum Participation Limit). The obligations under the warrant participation agreement continue even after the Citigroup facility is terminated until the Maximum Participation Limit has been reached. Since inception of the agreement in 2005, we have paid Citigroup approximately \$292,000 under the warrant participation agreement thereby reducing our realized gains. During 2006, we reduced our realized gain by \$221,000 and recorded a liability and reduced our unrealized gain by approximately \$35,000 for unrealized gains in our warrant and equity investments due Citigroup under our warrant participation agreement. During the three months ended March 31, 2007, we reduced our realized gain by approximately \$16,000 for Citigroup's participation in the gain on sale of an equity security and we recorded an additional liability and reduced our unrealized appreciation by approximately \$55,000 for Citigroup's participation in unrealized appreciation in the warrant portfolio. Based on our average borrowings for the year ending December 31, 2006 and the amount

Table of Contents

of the reduction we recorded for our realized and unrealized gains for 2006, the additional cost of our borrowings as a result of the warrant participation agreement could be approximately 0.31%. There can be no assurances that the unrealized gains on the warrants will not be higher or lower in future periods due to fluctuations in the value of the warrants, thereby increasing or reducing the effect on the cost of borrowing. The value of their participation right on unrealized gains in the related equity investments since inception of the agreement was approximately \$432,000 at March 31, 2007 and is included in accrued liabilities and reduces the unrealized gain recognized by the us at March 31, 2007.

- (8) Fees paid in connection with borrowed funds represents estimated fees paid in connection with borrowed funds for 2007.
- (9) For the year ended December 31, 2006, we did not have any investments in shares of Acquired Funds that are not consolidated and, as a result, we did not directly or indirectly incur any fees from Acquired Funds.
- (10) Total annual expenses is the sum of operating expenses, interest payments on borrowed funds and fees paid in connection with borrowed funds.

Example

The following example demonstrates the projected dollar amount of total cumulative expenses that would be incurred over various periods with respect to a hypothetical investment in our common stock. These amounts are based upon our payment of annual operating expenses at the levels set forth in the table above and assume no additional leverage.

	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
You would pay the following expenses on a \$1,000 investment, assuming a 5% annual return	\$ 126.44	\$ 272.22	\$ 409.04	\$ 715.39

The example and the expenses in the tables above should not be considered a representation of our future expenses, and actual expenses may be greater or lesser than those shown. Moreover, while the example assumes, as required by the applicable rules of the SEC, a 5% annual return, our performance will vary and may result in a return greater or lesser than 5%. In addition, while the example assumes reinvestment of all dividends and distributions at net asset value, participants in our dividend reinvestment plan may receive shares valued at the market price in effect at that time. This price may be at, above or below net asset value. See Dividend Reinvestment Plan for additional information regarding our dividend reinvestment plan.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY

Our Company

We are a specialty finance company that provides debt and equity growth capital to technology-related and life sciences companies at all stages of development. Our investment objective is to maximize our portfolio's total return by generating current income from our debt investments and capital appreciation from our equity-related investments. We are an internally-managed, non-diversified closed-end investment company that has elected to be treated as a business development company under the Investment Company Act of 1940.

We primarily finance privately-held companies backed by leading venture capital and private equity firms and also may invest in select publicly-traded companies that lack access to public capital or are sensitive to equity ownership dilution. Our principal executive office is located in Silicon Valley, and we have additional offices in the Boston, Boulder, Chicago, Costa Mesa and Columbus areas. Our goal is to be the leading structured mezzanine capital provider of choice for venture capital and private equity backed technology-related and life sciences companies requiring sophisticated and customized financing solutions. Our strategy is to evaluate and invest in a broad range of ventures active in the technology and life science industries and to offer a full suite of capital products at all levels of the capital structure. We invest primarily in structured mezzanine debt and, to a lesser extent, in senior debt and equity. We use the term "structured mezzanine debt investment" to refer to any debt investment, such as a senior or subordinated secured loan, that is coupled with an equity component, including warrants, options or rights to purchase common or preferred stock. Our structured mezzanine debt investments will typically be secured by some or all of the assets of the portfolio company.

We focus our investments in companies active in technology industry sub-sectors characterized by products or services that require advanced technologies, including computer software and hardware, networking systems, semiconductors, semiconductor capital equipment, information technology infrastructure or services, Internet consumer and business services, telecommunications, telecommunications equipment, media and life sciences. Within the life sciences sub-sector, we focus on medical devices, bio-pharmaceutical, health care services and information systems companies. We refer to all of these companies as "technology-related" companies and intend, under normal circumstances, to invest at least 80% of the value of our assets in such businesses.

Our primary business objectives are to increase our net income, net operating income and net asset value by investing in structured mezzanine debt and equity of venture capital and private equity backed technology-related companies with attractive current yields and the potential for equity appreciation and realized gains. Our structured debt investments typically include warrants or other equity interests, giving us the potential to realize equity-like returns on a portion of our investment. In some cases, we receive the right to make additional equity investments in our portfolio companies in connection with future equity financing rounds. Capital that we provide directly to venture capital and private equity backed technology-related companies is generally used for growth, and in select cases for acquisitions or recapitalizations.

Our portfolio is comprised of, and we anticipate that our portfolio will continue to be comprised of, investments in technology-related companies at various stages of their development. Consistent with regulatory requirements, we invest primarily in United States based companies and to a lesser extent in foreign companies. To date, our emphasis has been primarily on private companies following or in connection with their first institutional round of equity financing, which we refer to as emerging-growth companies, and private companies in later rounds of financing, which we refer to as expansion-stage companies. In 2007, we expect to increase our investment activity in established companies, comprised of private companies in one of their final rounds of equity financing prior to a liquidity event or select publicly-traded companies that lack access to public capital or are sensitive to equity ownership dilution.

Our investment professionals, including Manuel A. Henriquez, our co-founder, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, is currently comprised of 17 professionals who have, on average, more than 15 years of

Table of Contents

experience in venture capital, structured finance, commercial lending or acquisition finance with the types of technology-related companies that we are targeting. We believe that we can leverage the experience and relationships of our management team to successfully identify attractive investment opportunities, underwrite prospective portfolio companies and structure customized financing solutions.

Since inception through March 31, 2007, we have made debt commitments of \$573.7 million to 74 portfolio companies and equity commitments of \$7.5 million to 15 companies. At March 31, 2007, our portfolio had a fair value of \$342.5 million in 65 companies.

From April 1, 2007 through May 22, 2007, we entered into binding agreements to invest approximately \$65.0 million in structured mezzanine debt in five new portfolio companies and \$750,000 in an equity investment in one existing portfolio company.

During this same period, we funded the following debt investments totaling \$51.2 million in eight new portfolio companies and four existing portfolio companies and funded \$1.0 million in equity to two portfolio companies.

Company	Type of Investment	Principal Business	Funded Investment
Cittio, Inc.	Senior Debt	Software	\$ 1,000,000
Cornice, Inc.	Senior Debt	Electronics and Computer Hardware	256,821
Guava Technologies, Inc.	Senior Debt	Biotechnology Tools	1,000,000
iWatt, Inc.	Senior Debt	Semiconductors	1,200,000
Neosil, Inc.	Senior Debt	Drug Discovery	2,000,000
NEXX Systems, Inc.	Senior Debt	Semiconductors	3,000,000
NuGEN Technologies, Inc.	Senior Debt	Biotechnology Tools	1,000,000
Rubicon Technology, Inc.	Senior Debt	Advanced Specialty Materials and Chemicals	8,100,000
Seven Networks, Inc.	Senior Debt	Communications and Networking	4,000,000
Solutionary, Inc.	Senior Debt	Information Services	5,500,000
Tectura Corporation	Senior Debt	Communications and Networking	22,000,000
VeriWave, Inc.	Senior Debt	Electronics and Computer Hardware	2,163,271
Solutionary, Inc.	Equity	Information Services	250,000
Quatrx Pharmaceuticals Company	Equity	Specialty Pharmaceuticals	750,001
		Total Investments	\$ 52,220,093

In addition, at May 22, 2007, we had unfunded commitments totaling approximately \$85.6 million. These commitments will be subject to the same underwriting and ongoing portfolio maintenance as the financial instruments that we hold. Since these commitments may expire without being drawn upon, the total commitment amount does not necessarily represent future cash requirements. In addition, we had extended non-binding term sheets to 17 prospective new portfolio companies representing approximately \$127.9 million of structured mezzanine debt investments. These investments are subject to finalization of our due diligence and approval process as well as negotiation of definitive agreements with the prospective portfolio company and, as a result, may not result in completed investments.

From April 1, 2007 through May 22, 2007, four of our portfolio companies closed on new rounds of equity funding. Portola Pharmaceuticals, Aveo Pharmaceuticals, QuatRx Pharmaceuticals and Intelliden raised approximately \$70.0 million, \$53.0 million, \$44.0 million and \$10.0 million, respectively, in new equity funding.

Table of Contents

On May 22, 2007, Sirtris Pharmaceuticals completed their initial public offering of common stock at \$10.00 per share. In addition, two of our portfolio companies, Power Medical and Aegerion Pharmaceuticals, have filed registration statements with the Securities and Exchange Commission, to register shares for an initial public offering of their common stock.

During this same period, one portfolio company, Pathfire, announced it had been acquired by DG FastChannel. In addition, Inight Software announced that it had entered into a definitive agreement to be acquired by Business Objects, and Baby Universe announced it entered into a definitive agreement to merge with eToysDirect, Inc.

As of May 22, 2007, we had \$130.0 million outstanding under our securitization credit facility.

Our Market Opportunity

We believe that technology-related companies compete in one of the largest and most rapidly growing sectors of the U.S. economy and that continued growth is supported by ongoing innovation and performance improvements in technology products as well as the adoption of technology across virtually all industries in response to competitive pressures. We believe that an attractive market opportunity exists for a specialty finance company focused primarily on structured mezzanine investments in technology-related and life sciences companies for the following reasons:

Technology-related companies have generally been underserved by traditional lending sources;

Unfulfilled demand exists for structured debt financing to technology-related companies;

Structured mezzanine debt products are less dilutive and complement equity financing from venture capital and private equity funds; and

Valuations currently assigned to technology-related companies in private financing rounds, while increasing in recent years, still provide a good opportunity for attractive capital returns.

Technology-Related Companies Underserved by Traditional Lenders. We believe many viable technology-related companies backed by financial sponsors have been unable to obtain sufficient growth financing from traditional lenders, including financial services companies such as commercial banks and finance companies, in part because traditional lenders have continued to consolidate and have adopted a more risk-averse approach to lending that has resulted in tightened credit standards in recent years. More importantly, we believe traditional lenders are typically unable to underwrite the risk associated with financial sponsor-backed emerging-growth or expansion-stage companies effectively.

The unique cash flow characteristics of many technology-related companies include significant research and development expenditures and high projected revenue growth thus often making such companies difficult to evaluate from a credit perspective. In addition, the balance sheets of emerging-growth and expansion-stage companies often include a disproportionately large amount of intellectual property assets, which can be difficult to value. Finally, the speed of innovation in technology and rapid shifts in consumer demand and market share add to the difficulty in evaluating technology-related companies.

Due to the difficulties described above, we believe traditional lenders are generally refraining from entering the structured mezzanine debt marketplace for emerging-growth and expansion-stage companies, instead preferring the risk-reward profile of senior debt. Traditional lenders generally do not have flexible product offerings that meet the needs of technology-related companies. The financing products offered by traditional lenders typically impose on borrowers many restrictive covenants and conditions, including limiting cash outflows and requiring a significant depository relationship to facilitate rapid liquidation.

Table of Contents

Unfulfilled Demand for Structured Debt Financing to Technology-Related Companies. Private debt capital in the form of structured debt financing from specialty finance companies continues to be an important source of funding for technology-related companies. We believe that the level of demand for structured debt financing to emerging-growth and expansion-stage companies is a function of the level of annual venture equity investment activity. In 2006, venture capital-backed companies received, in approximately 2,454 transactions, equity financing in an aggregate amount of approximately \$25.8 billion, representing an 8% increase over the preceding year, as reported by Dow Jones VentureOne. In addition, according to VentureOne, overall, the median equity round size in 2006 was \$7 million, up from \$6.5 million in 2005, and the highest annual median since 2000. For the second year in a row, equity investors are focusing more than a third of their investment activity on early-stage financings. Overall, seed- and first-round deals made up 36% of the deal flow in 2006, and about the same concentration of deal flow went to later-stage deals. As a result, we believe a range of \$20 billion to \$25 billion in annual equity investments to venture-backed companies will be sustainable for future years.

We believe that demand for structured debt financing is currently unfulfilled, in part because historically the largest debt capital providers to technology-related companies exited the market during 2001 while at the same time lending requirements of traditional lenders have become more stringent. We therefore believe this is an opportune time to be active in the structured lending market for technology-related companies.

Structured Mezzanine Debt Products Complement Equity Financing From Venture Capital and Private Equity Funds. We believe that technology-related companies and their financial sponsors will continue to view structured debt securities as an attractive source of capital because it augments the capital provided by venture capital and private equity funds. We believe that our structured mezzanine debt products provide access to growth capital for technology-related companies that otherwise may only be available through incremental investments by existing equity investors. As such, we provide portfolio companies and their financial sponsors with an opportunity to diversify their capital sources. Generally, we believe emerging-growth and expansion-stage companies target a portion of their capital to be debt in an attempt to achieve a higher valuation through internal growth. In addition, because financial sponsor-backed companies have recently been more mature prior to reaching a liquidity event, we believe our investments could provide the debt capital needed to grow or recapitalize during the extended period prior to liquidity events.

Lower Valuations for Private Technology-Related Companies. During the downturn in technology industries that began in 2000, the markets saw sharp and broad declines in valuations of venture capital and private equity-backed technology-related companies. According to Dow Jones VentureOne, median pre-money valuations for venture capital-backed companies in 2000 was \$25.1 million declining to a low of \$10.0 million in 2003. In addition, as of December 31, 2006 median pre-money valuations for venture capital-backed companies in 2006 was \$18.5 million compared to \$15.0 million in 2005. While pre-money valuations have been steadily increasing since 2003, we believe the valuations currently assigned to venture capital and private equity-backed technology-related companies in private financing rounds are still relatively low and should allow us to continue to build a portfolio of equity-related securities at attractive valuation levels.

Our Business Strategy

Our strategy to achieve our investment objective includes the following key elements:

Leverage the Experience and Industry Relationships of Our Management Team and Investment Professionals. We have assembled a team of experienced investment professionals with extensive experience as venture capitalists, commercial lenders, and originators of structured debt and equity investments in technology-related companies. Our investment professionals have, on average, more than 15 years of experience as equity investors in, and/or lenders to, technology-related companies. In addition, our team members have originated structured mezzanine investments in over 200 technology-related companies, representing over \$1.0 billion in investments, and have developed a network of industry contacts with investors and other participants within the

Table of Contents

venture capital and private equity communities. In addition, members of our management team also have operational, research and development and finance experience with technology-related companies. We have established contacts with leading venture capital and private equity fund sponsors, public and private companies, research institutions and other industry participants, which should enable us to identify and attract well-positioned prospective portfolio companies.

We concentrate our investing activities in industries in which our investment professionals have investment experience. We believe that our focus on financing technology-related companies will enable us to leverage our expertise in structuring prospective investments, to assess the value of both tangible and intangible assets, to evaluate the business prospects and operating characteristics of technology-related companies and to identify and originate potentially attractive investments with these types of companies.

Mitigate Risk of Principal Loss and Build a Portfolio of Equity-Related Securities. We expect that our investments have the potential to produce attractive risk adjusted returns through current income, in the form of interest and fee income, as well as capital appreciation from equity-related securities. We believe that we can mitigate the risk of loss on our debt investments through the combination of loan principal amortization, cash interest payments, relatively short maturities, security interests in the assets of our portfolio companies, covenants requiring prospective portfolio companies to have certain amounts of available cash at the time of our investment and the continued support from a venture capital or private equity firm at the time we make our investment.

In addition, historically our structured debt investments typically include warrants or other equity interests, giving us the potential to realize equity-like returns on a portion of our investment. We expect, in some cases, to receive the right to make additional equity investments in our portfolio companies in connection with future equity financing rounds. We believe these equity interests will create the potential for long-term capital gains in connection with the future liquidity events of these technology-related companies.

Provide Customized Financing Complementary to Financial Sponsors' Capital. We offer a broad range of investment structures and possess expertise and experience to effectively structure and price investments in technology-related companies. Unlike many of our competitors that only invest in companies that fit a specific set of investment parameters, we have the flexibility to structure our investments to suit the particular needs of our portfolio companies. We offer customized financing solutions ranging from senior debt to equity capital, with a focus on structured mezzanine debt.

We use our relationships in the financial sponsor community to originate investment opportunities. Because venture capital and private equity funds typically invest solely in the equity securities of their portfolio companies, we believe that our debt investments will be viewed as an attractive source of capital, both by the portfolio company and by the portfolio company's financial sponsor. In addition, we believe that many venture capital and private equity fund sponsors encourage their portfolio companies to use debt financing for a portion of their capital needs as a means of potentially enhancing equity returns, minimizing equity dilution and increasing valuations prior to a subsequent equity financing round or a liquidity event.

Invest at Various Stages of Development. We provide growth capital to technology-related companies at all stages of development, from emerging-growth companies, to expansion-stage companies and established companies. Established companies are comprised generally of private companies in one of their final rounds of financing prior to a liquidity event or select publicly-traded companies that lack access to public capital or are sensitive to equity ownership dilution. We believe that this provides us with a broader range of potential investment opportunities than those available to many of our competitors, who generally focus their investments on a particular stage in a company's development. Because of the flexible structure of our investments and the extensive experience of our investment professionals, we believe we are well positioned to take advantage of these investment opportunities at all stages of prospective portfolio companies' development.

Table of Contents

Benefit from Our Efficient Organizational Structure. We believe that the perpetual nature of our corporate structure enables us to be a long-term partner for our portfolio companies in contrast to traditional mezzanine and investment funds, which typically have a limited life. In addition, because of our access to the equity markets, we believe that we may benefit from a lower cost of capital than that available to private investment funds. We are not subject to requirements to return invested capital to investors nor do we have a finite investment horizon. Capital providers that are subject to such limitations are often required to seek a liquidity event more quickly than they otherwise might, which can result in a lower overall return on an investment.

Deal Sourcing Through Our Proprietary Database. We have developed a proprietary and comprehensive structured query language-based (SQL) database system to track various aspects of our investment process including sourcing, originations, transaction monitoring and post-investment performance. As of March 31, 2007, our proprietary SQL-based database system included over 10,900 technology-related companies and over 3,000 venture capital private equity sponsors/investors, as well as various other industry contacts. This proprietary SQL system allows us to maintain, cultivate and grow our industry relationships while providing us with comprehensive details on companies in the technology-related industries and their financial sponsors.

Recent Developments

On May 2, 2007, the SEC published a notice regarding our exemptive application to grant shares of restricted stock to our officers, employees and directors. The order was issued on May 23, 2007. Awards of restricted stock are also subject to the approval by our stockholders of the amended and restated 2004 Equity Incentive Plan to provide for issuances of restricted stock. If we receive such approval, we intend to make grants of restricted stock in accordance with the plan and the SEC exemptive order.

Under the securities rules that apply to business development companies, non-employee directors cannot receive any options or other equity compensation without an SEC exemptive order specifically allowing the grant of such equity awards. On February 15, 2007, we received an order of the SEC allowing us to issue options to non-employee directors. Under that original SEC order and the plan approved by the stockholders in 2006, we were permitted to issue options to purchase 20,000 shares per year to each non-employee director. No options have been issued to directors since the receipt of the order. We cannot change the number of shares granted to a non-employee director absent a new exemptive order from the SEC. We submitted an application for a new order on May 23, 2007. Subject to our stockholders' approval of the amended and restated 2006 Non-Employee Director Plan and our receipt of a revised order of the SEC granting amended exemptive relief with respect to the options, non-employee directors are expected to receive options to purchase 10,000 shares of common stock upon their first election to the board and an additional grant of options to purchase 15,000 shares of common stock upon each subsequent reelection to the board. There can be no assurances as to when we will receive a revised exemptive order.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We estimate that our net proceeds from the sale of the 8,000,000 shares of common stock we are offering will be approximately \$110.0 million and approximately \$126.6 million, if the underwriters' option is exercised in full, assuming a public offering price of \$14.51 per share (based on the last reported sales price of our common stock on May 23, 2007) and after deducting the underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses payable by us. We may change the size of this offering based on demand and market conditions.

We expect to use the net proceeds from this offering to reduce borrowings and to invest in debt and equity securities and for other general corporate purposes. Amounts repaid under our securitized credit facility will remain available for future borrowings. At May 22, 2007, our securitized credit facility bore interest at one month LIBOR plus 120 basis points and there was approximately \$130.0 million outstanding. This securitized credit facility expires on May 1, 2008. We have not yet determined the amount of net proceeds to be used specifically for each of the foregoing purposes. Accordingly, our management will have flexibility in applying the net proceeds of this offering.

We anticipate that substantially all of the net proceeds from this offering will be used within six to twelve months, but in no event longer than two years. Pending such uses and investments, we will invest the net proceeds primarily in cash, cash equivalents, U.S. government securities or high-quality debt securities maturing in one year or less from the time of investment.

S-10

Table of Contents**UNDERWRITING**

Subject to the terms and conditions of the underwriting agreement between us and the underwriters, the underwriters, for whom Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC is acting as representative, have agreed to purchase from us the following number of shares of our common stock described in this prospectus supplement at the offering price less the underwriting discounts and commissions set forth on the cover page of this prospectus.

Underwriters	Number of Shares
Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC	
JMP Securities LLC	
A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc.	
Piper Jaffray & Co.	
Ferris, Baker Watts, Incorporated	

Total	8,000,000
-------	-----------

The underwriting agreement provides that the obligations of the underwriters are subject to certain conditions precedent and that the underwriters will purchase all such shares of the common stock if any of these shares are purchased. The underwriters are obligated to take and pay for all of the shares of common stock offered hereby, if any are taken.

The underwriters have advised us that they propose to offer the shares of common stock to the public at the offering price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement and to certain dealers at such price less a concession not in excess of \$ per share.

We have granted to the underwriters a 30-day option to purchase on a pro rata basis up to 1,200,000 additional shares. The option may be exercised only to cover any over-allotments of common stock.

The following table provides information regarding the per share and total underwriting discounts and commissions that we will pay to the underwriters in connection with this offering. These amounts are shown assuming both no exercise and full exercise of the underwriters' option to purchase up to an additional shares of common stock from us.

	Per Share	No Exercise	Total Full Exercise
Public offering price	\$	\$	\$
Underwriting Discounts and Commissions	\$	\$	\$
Proceeds, before expenses, to us	\$	\$	\$

The underwriters propose to offer the common stock directly to the public initially at the offering price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement. If all the shares are not sold at the public offering price, the representatives may change the offering price and the other selling terms.

We expect to incur total expenses of approximately \$250,000, excluding underwriting discounts and commissions, in connection with this offering.

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933.

We, our directors and senior executive officers have agreed that during the 75 days after the date of this prospectus supplement, subject to certain exceptions, they will not, without the prior written consent of Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC, offer to sell, contract to sell, or otherwise sell, dispose of, loan, pledge or grant any rights with respect to (collectively, a *Disposition*), any shares, any options or warrants to purchase any shares or any securities convertible into or redeemable or exchangeable for shares now owned or hereafter acquired

Table of Contents

directly by such person or with respect to which such person has or hereafter acquires the power of disposition. The foregoing restriction has been expressly agreed to preclude the holder of the securities from engaging in any hedging or other transaction which is designed to or reasonably expected to lead to or result in a disposition of securities during the Lock-Up period, even if such securities would be disposed of by someone other than the holder. Such prohibited hedging or other transactions would include, without limitation, any short sale (whether or not against the box) or any purchase, sale or grant of any right (including, without limitation, any put or call option) with respect to any securities. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, if (i) during the last 17 days of the Lock-Up Period, the Company issues an earnings release or material news or a material event relating to the Company occurs or (ii) prior to the expiration of the Lock-Up Period, the Company announces that it will release earnings results during the 16-day period beginning on the last day of the Lock-Up Period, the foregoing restrictions shall continue to apply until the expiration of the 18-day period beginning on the issuance of the earnings release or the occurrence of the material news or material event. These lock-up agreements will cover approximately 646,632 shares of our outstanding common stock and shares underlying warrants in the aggregate and will not cover shares of common stock received as a result of participation in our dividend reinvestment plan or shares received as a result of the exercise of options and will not cover the issuance by the Company of shares to the directors in lieu of cash compensation. Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC may, in its sole discretion, allow any of these parties to dispose of common stock or other securities prior to the expiration of the 75 day period. There are, however, no agreements between Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC and the parties that would allow them to do so as of the date of this prospectus supplement.

Until the distribution of the common stock is completed, rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission may limit the ability of the underwriters and certain selling group members to bid for and purchase the common stock. As an exception to these rules, the underwriters are permitted to engage in certain transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of the common stock.

In connection with this offering, the underwriters may engage in stabilizing transactions, over-allotment transactions, syndicate covering transactions, penalty and market making bids in accordance with Regulation M under the Securities Act of 1934.

Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum.

Over-allotment transactions involve sales by the underwriters of the shares of common stock in excess of the number of shares the underwriters are obligated to purchase, which creates a syndicate short position. The short position may be either a covered short position or a naked short position. In a covered short position, the number of shares over-allotted by the underwriters is not greater than the number of shares that they may purchase in the over-allotment option. In a naked short position, the number of shares involved is greater than the number of shares in the over-allotment option. The underwriters may close out any covered short position by either exercising their over-allotment option and/or purchasing shares in the open market.

Syndicate covering transactions involve purchases of the shares of common stock in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover syndicate short positions. In determining the source of shares to close out the short position, the underwriters will consider, among other things, the price of shares available for purchase in the open market as compared to the price at which they may purchase shares through the over-allotment option. If the underwriters sell more shares than could be covered by the over-allotment option, a naked short position, the position can only be closed out by buying shares in the open market. A naked short position is more likely to be created if the underwriters are concerned that there could be downward pressure on the price of the shares in the open market after pricing that could adversely affect investors who purchase in the offering.

Penalty bids permit representatives to reclaim a selling concession from a syndicate member when the shares of common stock originally sold by the syndicate member are purchased in a stabilizing or syndicate covering transaction to cover syndicate short positions.

Table of Contents

In passive market making, market makers in the common stock who are underwriters or prospective underwriters may, subject to limitations, make bids for or purchases of our common stock until the time, if any, at which a stabilizing bid is made.

These stabilizing transactions, syndicate covering transactions and penalty bids may have the effect of raising or maintaining the market price of our common stock or preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the common stock. As a result the price of our common stock may be higher than the price that might otherwise exist in the open market.

The underwriters will deliver an accompanying prospectus and prospectus supplement to all purchasers of shares of common stock in the short sales. The purchases of shares of common stock in short sales are entitled to the same remedies under the federal securities laws as any other purchaser of shares of common stock covered by this prospectus supplement.

The underwriters are not obligated to engage in any of the transactions described above. If they do engage in any of these transactions, they may discontinue them at any time.

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a Relevant Member State), each underwriter represents and agrees that with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State (the Relevant Implementation Date) it has not made and will not make an offer of securities to the public in that Relevant Member State prior to the publication of a prospectus in relation to the securities which has been approved by the competent authority in that Relevant Member State or, where appropriate, approved in another Relevant Member State and notified to the competent authority in that Relevant Member State, all in accordance with the Prospectus Directive, except that it may, with effect from and including the Relevant Implementation Date, make an offer of Securities to the public in that Relevant Member State at any time,

to legal entities which are authorized or regulated to operate in the financial markets or, if not so authorized or regulated, whose corporate purpose is solely to invest in securities;

to any legal entity which has two or more of (1) an average of at least 250 employees during the last financial year; (2) a total balance sheet of more than €43,000,000 and (3) an annual net turnover of more than €50,000,000, as shown in its last annual or consolidated accounts;

in any other circumstances which do not require the publication by the issuer of a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression an offer of Shares to the public in relation to any Shares in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the Shares to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the Shares, as the same may be varied in that Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Member State and the expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC and includes any relevant implementing measure in each Relevant Member State.

Each of the underwriters severally represents, warrants and agrees as follows:

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 FSMA) to persons who have professional experience in matters relating to investments falling with Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 or in circumstances in which section 21 of FSMA does not apply to the company; and

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

Table of Contents

Our common stock is quoted on the Nasdaq Global Market under the trading symbol HTGC.

In the ordinary course of their businesses, the underwriters and/or their affiliates have in the past performed, and many continue to perform, investment banking, broker dealer, lending, financial advisory or other services for us for which they have received, or may receive, customary compensation.

The principal address of Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC is Eleven Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10010. The principal address of JMP Securities LLC is 600 Montgomery Street, Suite 1100, San Francisco, California 94111. The principal address of A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. is 333 South Hope Street, Los Angeles, California 90071. The principal address of Piper Jaffray & Co. is 800 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402. The principal address of Ferris, Baker Watts, Incorporated is 100 Light Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202.

This offering is being conducted in compliance with Rule 2810 of the Conduct Rules of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc.

NOTICE TO CANADIAN RESIDENTS

Resale Restrictions

The distribution of the common stock in Canada is being made only on a private placement basis exempt from the requirement that we prepare and file a prospectus with the securities regulatory authorities in each province where trades of common stock are made. Any resale of the common stock in Canada must be made under applicable securities laws which will vary depending on the relevant jurisdiction, and which may require resales to be made under available statutory exemptions or under a discretionary exemption granted by the applicable Canadian securities regulatory authority. Purchasers are advised to seek legal advice prior to any resale of the common stock.

Representations of Purchasers

By purchasing common stock in Canada and accepting a purchase confirmation a purchaser is representing to us and the dealer from whom the purchase confirmation is received that:

the purchaser is entitled under applicable provincial securities laws to purchase the common stock without the benefit of a prospectus qualified under those securities laws,

where required by law, that the purchaser is purchasing as principal and not as agent,

the purchaser has reviewed the text above under Resale Restrictions, and

the purchaser acknowledges and consents to the provision of specified information concerning its purchase of the common stock to the regulatory authority that by law is entitled to collect the information.

Further details concerning the legal authority for this information is available on request.

Rights of Action Ontario Purchasers Only

Under Ontario securities legislation, certain purchasers who purchase a security offered by this prospectus supplement and prospectus during the period of distribution will have a statutory right of action for damages, or while still the owner of the common stock, for rescission against us in the event that the prospectus or this prospectus supplement contains a misrepresentation without regard to whether the purchaser relied on the misrepresentation. The right of action for damages is exercisable not later than the earlier of 180 days from the date the purchaser first had knowledge of the facts giving rise to the cause of action and three years from the date on which payment is made for the common stock. The right of action for rescission is exercisable not later than

Table of Contents

180 days from the date on which payment is made for the common stock. If a purchaser elects to exercise the right of action for rescission, the purchaser will have no right of action for damages against us. In no case will the amount recoverable in any action exceed the price at which the common stock were offered to the purchaser and if the purchaser is shown to have purchased the securities with knowledge of the misrepresentation, we will have no liability. In the case of an action for damages, will not be liable for all or any portion of the damages that are proven to not represent the depreciation in value of the common stock as a result of the misrepresentation relied upon. These rights are in addition to, and without derogation from, any other rights or remedies available at law to an Ontario purchaser. The foregoing is a summary of the rights available to an Ontario purchaser. Ontario purchasers should refer to the complete text of the relevant statutory provisions.

Enforcement of Legal Rights

All of our directors and officers as well as the experts named herein may be located outside of Canada and, as a result, it may not be possible for Canadian purchasers to effect service of process within Canada upon us or those persons. All or a substantial portion of our assets and the assets of those persons may be located outside of Canada and, as a result, it may not be possible to satisfy a judgment against us or those persons in Canada or to enforce a judgment obtained in Canadian courts against us or those persons outside of Canada.

Taxation and Eligibility for Investment

Canadian purchasers of common stock should consult their own legal and tax advisors with respect to the tax consequences of an investment in the common stock in their particular circumstances and about the eligibility of the for investment by the purchaser under relevant Canadian legislation.

LEGAL MATTERS

Certain legal matters with respect to the validity of the shares of common stock we are offering will be passed upon for us by Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP, Washington, D.C. Certain legal matters related to the offering will be passed upon for the underwriters by Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP, Washington, D.C.

Table of Contents

12,000,000 Shares Common Stock

This prospectus relates to the offer, from time to time, of 12,000,000 shares of our common stock, par value \$0.001 per share by us and the resale of up to 479,568 shares of our common stock by certain current stockholders.

We may offer, from time to time, up to 12,000,000 shares of our common stock in one or more offerings. The shares of common stock may be offered at prices and terms to be described in one or more supplements to this prospectus. The offering price per share of our common stock less any underwriting commissions or discounts will not be less than the net asset value per share of our common stock at the time we make the offering.

The shares of our common stock which are offered for resale by this prospectus are offered for the accounts of the current holders of such common stock, whom we refer to as the selling holders. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the shares of common stock sold by the selling holders. We have agreed to bear specific expenses in connection with the registration and sale of the common stock being offered by the selling holders.

We are a specialty finance company that provides debt and equity growth capital to technology-related and life sciences companies at all stages of development. We primarily finance privately-held companies backed by leading venture capital and private equity firms and also may finance certain publicly-traded companies that lack access to public capital or are sensitive to equity ownership dilution. We source our investments through our principal office located in Silicon Valley, as well as additional offices in the Boston, Boulder and Chicago areas. Our goal is to be the leading structured mezzanine capital provider of choice for venture capital and private equity backed technology-related and life sciences companies requiring sophisticated and customized financing solutions. We invest primarily in structured mezzanine debt and, to a lesser extent, in senior debt and equity.

Our investment objective is to maximize our portfolio's total return by generating current income from our debt investments and capital appreciation from our equity-related investments. We are an internally-managed, non-diversified closed-end investment company that has elected to be treated as a business development company under the Investment Company Act of 1940.

Our common stock is traded on the Nasdaq Global Market under the symbol HTGC. On May 8, 2007 the last reported sale price of a share of our common stock on the Nasdaq Global Market was \$14.44.

An investment in our common stock involves risks and involves a heightened risk of total loss of investment. In addition, the companies in which we invest are subject to special risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page 12 to read about risks that you should consider before investing in our common stock, including the risk of leverage.

Edgar Filing: HERCULES TECHNOLOGY GROWTH CAPITAL INC - Form 497

This prospectus contains important information you should know before investing in our common stock. Please read it before making an investment decision and keep it for future reference. Shares of closed-end investment companies have in the past frequently traded at a discount to their net asset value. If our shares trade at a discount to net asset value, it may increase the risk of loss for purchasers in this offering.

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

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information about us with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The information is available free of charge by contacting us at 400 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 310, Palo Alto, California 94301 or by telephone calling collect at (650) 289-3060 or on our website at www.herculestech.com. The SEC also maintains a website at www.sec.gov that contains such information.

The date of this prospectus is May 16, 2007

Table of Contents

You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus. We have not authorized any dealer, salesperson or other person to provide you with different information or to make representations as to matters not stated in this prospectus. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. This prospectus is not an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to buy, any shares of common stock by any person in any jurisdiction where it is unlawful for that person to make such an offer or solicitation or to any person in any jurisdiction to whom it is unlawful to make such an offer or solicitation. The information in this prospectus is accurate only as of its date, and under no circumstances should the delivery of this prospectus or the sale of any common stock imply that the information in this prospectus is accurate as of any later date or that the affairs of Hercules Technology Growth Capital, Inc. have not changed since the date hereof. This prospectus will be updated to reflect material changes.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>Summary</u>	1
<u>Fees and Expenses</u>	8
<u>Selected Consolidated Financial Data</u>	10
<u>Risk Factors</u>	12
<u>Forward-Looking Statements; Market Data</u>	29
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	30
<u>Price Range of Common Stock and Distributions</u>	31
<u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	33
<u>Business</u>	50
<u>Portfolio Companies</u>	63
<u>Senior Securities</u>	76
<u>Determination of Net Asset Value</u>	76
<u>Management</u>	78
<u>Control Persons and Principal Stockholders</u>	95
<u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions</u>	98
<u>Certain United States Federal Income Tax Considerations</u>	100
<u>Regulation</u>	108
<u>Dividend Reinvestment Plan</u>	113
<u>Description of Capital Stock</u>	114
<u>Selling Shareholders</u>	122
<u>Shares Eligible for Future Sale</u>	123
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	123
<u>Brokerage Allocation and Other Practices</u>	124
<u>Custodian, Transfer and Dividend Paying Agent and Registrar</u>	125
<u>Legal Matters</u>	125
<u>Experts</u>	125
<u>Available Information</u>	125
<u>Index to Financial Statements</u>	F-1

Hercules Technology Growth Capital, Inc., our logo and other trademarks of Hercules Technology Growth Capital, Inc. mentioned in this prospectus are the property of Hercules Technology Growth Capital, Inc. All other trademarks or trade names referred to in this prospectus are the property of their respective owners.

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

This summary highlights some of the information in this prospectus and may not contain all of the information that is important to you. You should read carefully the more detailed information set forth under Risk Factors and the other information included in this prospectus. The following summary is qualified in its entirety by reference to the more detailed information and financial statements appearing elsewhere in this prospectus. In this prospectus, unless the context otherwise requires, the Company, Hercules Technology Growth Capital, we, us and our refer to Hercules Technology Growth Capital, Inc. and our wholly-owned subsidiaries Hercules Technology II, L.P., Hercules Technology SBIC Management, LLC., Hydra Management LLC and Hydra Management Co., Inc.

Our Company

We are a specialty finance company that provides debt and equity growth capital to technology-related and life sciences companies at all stages of development. Our investment objective is to maximize our portfolio's total return by generating current income from our debt investments and capital appreciation from our equity-related investments. We are an internally-managed, non-diversified closed-end investment company that has elected to be treated as a business development company under the Investment Company Act of 1940.

During the first quarter of 2007, we entered into approximately \$108.5 million of investment commitments and invested approximately \$80.2 million in 9 new portfolio companies and 11 existing portfolio companies.

We primarily finance privately-held companies backed by leading venture capital and private equity firms and also may invest in select publicly-traded companies that lack access to public capital or are sensitive to equity ownership dilution. Our principal executive office is located in Silicon Valley, and we have additional offices in the Boston, Boulder, Chicago, Costa Mesa and Columbus areas. Our goal is to be the leading structured mezzanine capital provider of choice for venture capital and private equity backed technology-related and life sciences companies requiring sophisticated and customized financing solutions. Our strategy is to evaluate and invest in a broad range of ventures active in the technology and life science industries and to offer a full suite of capital products at all levels of the capital structure. We invest primarily in structured mezzanine debt and, to a lesser extent, in senior debt and equity. We use the term structured mezzanine debt investment to refer to any debt investment, such as a senior or subordinated secured loan, that is coupled with an equity component, including warrants, options or rights to purchase common or preferred stock. Our structured mezzanine debt investments will typically be secured by some or all of the assets of the portfolio company.

We focus our investments in companies active in technology industry sub-sectors characterized by products or services that require advanced technologies, including computer software and hardware, networking systems, semiconductors, semiconductor capital equipment, information technology infrastructure or services, Internet consumer and business services, telecommunications, telecommunications equipment, media and life sciences. Within the life sciences sub-sector, we focus on medical devices, bio-pharmaceutical, health care services and information systems companies. We refer to all of these companies as technology-related companies and intend, under normal circumstances, to invest at least 80% of the value of our assets in such businesses.

Our primary business objectives are to increase our net income, net operating income and net asset value by investing in structured mezzanine debt and equity of venture capital and private equity backed technology-related companies with attractive current yields and the potential for equity appreciation and realized gains. Our structured debt investments typically include warrants or other equity interests, giving us the potential to realize equity-like returns on a portion of our investment. In some cases, we receive the right to make additional equity investments in our portfolio companies in connection with future equity financing rounds. Capital that we provide directly to venture capital and private

equity backed technology-related companies is generally used for growth, and in select cases for acquisitions or recapitalizations.

Table of Contents

Our portfolio is comprised of, and we anticipate that our portfolio will continue to be comprised of, investments in technology-related companies at various stages of their development. Consistent with regulatory requirements, we invest primarily in United States based companies and to a lesser extent in foreign companies. To date, our emphasis has been primarily on private companies following or in connection with their first institutional round of equity financing, which we refer to as emerging-growth companies, and private companies in later rounds of financing, which we refer to as expansion-stage companies. In 2007, we expect to increase, our investment activity in established companies, comprised of private companies in one of their final rounds of equity financing prior to a liquidity event or select publicly-traded companies that lack access to public capital or are sensitive to equity ownership dilution.

Our investment professionals, including Manuel A. Henriquez, our co-founder, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, is currently comprised of 17 professionals who have, on average, more than 15 years of experience in venture capital, structured finance, commercial lending or acquisition finance with the types of technology-related companies that we are targeting. We believe that we can leverage the experience and relationships of our management team to successfully identify attractive investment opportunities, underwrite prospective portfolio companies and structure customized financing solutions.

Our Market Opportunity

We believe that technology-related companies compete in one of the largest and most rapidly growing sectors of the U.S. economy and that continued growth is supported by ongoing innovation and performance improvements in technology products as well as the adoption of technology across virtually all industries in response to competitive pressures. We believe that an attractive market opportunity exists for a specialty finance company focused primarily on structured mezzanine investments in technology-related and life sciences companies for the following reasons:

Technology-related companies have generally been underserved by traditional lending sources;

Unfulfilled demand exists for structured debt financing to technology-related companies;

Structured mezzanine debt products are less dilutive and complement equity financing from venture capital and private equity funds; and

Valuations currently assigned to technology-related companies in private financing rounds, while increasing in recent years, still provide a good opportunity for attractive capital returns.

Technology-Related Companies Underserved by Traditional Lenders. We believe many viable technology-related companies backed by financial sponsors have been unable to obtain sufficient growth financing from traditional lenders, including financial services companies such as commercial banks and finance companies, in part because traditional lenders have continued to consolidate and have adopted a more risk-averse approach to lending that has resulted in tightened credit standards in recent years. More importantly, we believe traditional lenders are typically unable to underwrite the risk associated with financial sponsor-backed emerging-growth or expansion-stage companies effectively.

The unique cash flow characteristics of many technology-related companies include significant research and development expenditures and high projected revenue growth thus often making such companies difficult to evaluate from a credit perspective. In addition, the balance sheets of

Edgar Filing: HERCULES TECHNOLOGY GROWTH CAPITAL INC - Form 497

emerging-growth and expansion-stage companies often include a disproportionately large amount of intellectual property assets, which can be difficult to value. Finally, the speed of innovation in technology and rapid shifts in consumer demand and market share add to the difficulty in evaluating technology-related companies.

Due to the difficulties described above, we believe traditional lenders are generally refraining from entering the structured mezzanine debt marketplace for emerging-growth and expansion-stage companies, instead

Table of Contents

preferring the risk-reward profile of senior debt. Traditional lenders generally do not have flexible product offerings that meet the needs of technology-related companies. The financing products offered by traditional lenders typically impose on borrowers many restrictive covenants and conditions, including limiting cash outflows and requiring a significant depository relationship to facilitate rapid liquidation.

Unfulfilled Demand for Structured Debt Financing to Technology-Related Companies. Private debt capital in the form of structured debt financing from specialty finance companies continues to be an important source of funding for technology-related companies. We believe that the level of demand for structured debt financing to emerging-growth and expansion-stage companies is a function of the level of annual venture equity investment activity. In 2006, venture capital-backed companies received, in approximately 2,454 transactions, equity financing in an aggregate amount of approximately \$25.8 billion, representing an 8% increase over the preceding year, as reported by Dow Jones VentureOne. In addition, according to VentureOne, overall, the median round size in 2006 was \$7 million, up from \$6.5 million in 2005, and the highest annual median since 2000. For the second year in a row, equity investors are focusing more than a third of their investment activity on early-stage financings. Overall, seed- and first-round deals made up 36% of the deal flow in 2006, and about the same concentration of deal flow went to later-stage deals. As a result, we believe a range of \$20 billion to \$25 billion in annual equity investments to venture-backed companies will be sustainable for future years.

We believe that demand for structured debt financing is currently unfulfilled, in part because historically the largest debt capital providers to technology-related companies exited the market during 2001 while at the same time lending requirements of traditional lenders have become more stringent. We therefore believe this is an opportune time to be active in the structured lending market for technology-related companies.

Structured Mezzanine Debt Products Complement Equity Financing From Venture Capital and Private Equity Funds. We believe that technology-related companies and their financial sponsors will continue to view structured debt securities as an attractive source of capital because it augments the capital provided by venture capital and private equity funds. We believe that our structured mezzanine debt products provide access to growth capital that otherwise may only be available through incremental investments by existing equity investors. As such, we provide portfolio companies and their financial sponsors with an opportunity to diversify their capital sources. Generally, we believe emerging-growth and expansion-stage companies target a portion of their capital to be debt in an attempt to achieve a higher valuation through internal growth. In addition, because financial sponsor-backed companies have recently been more mature prior to reaching a liquidity event, we believe our investments could provide the debt capital needed to grow or recapitalize during the extended period prior to liquidity events.

Lower Valuations for Private Technology-Related Companies. During the downturn in technology industries that began in 2000, the markets saw sharp and broad declines in valuations of venture capital and private equity-backed technology-related companies. According to Dow Jones VentureOne, median pre-money valuations for venture capital-backed companies in 2000 was \$25.1 million declining to a low of \$10.0 million in 2003. In addition, as of December 31, 2006 median pre-money valuations for venture capital-backed companies in 2006 was \$18.5 million compared to \$15.0 million in 2005. While pre-money valuations have been steadily increasing since 2003, we believe the valuations currently assigned to venture capital and private equity-backed technology-related companies in private financing rounds are still relatively low and should allow us to continue to build a portfolio of equity-related securities at attractive valuation levels.

Our Business Strategy

Our strategy to achieve our investment objective includes the following key elements:

Leverage the Experience and Industry Relationships of Our Management Team and Investment Professionals. We have assembled a team of experienced investment professionals with extensive experience as venture capitalists, commercial lenders, and originators of structured debt and

equity investments in technology-

Table of Contents

related companies. Our investment professionals have, on average, more than 15 years of experience as equity investors in, and/or lenders to, technology-related companies. In addition, our team members have originated structured mezzanine investments in over 200 technology-related companies, representing over \$1.0 billion in investments, and have developed a network of industry contacts with investors and other participants within the venture capital and private equity communities. In addition, members of our management team also have operational, research and development and finance experience with technology-related companies. We have established contacts with leading venture capital and private equity fund sponsors, public and private companies, research institutions and other industry participants, which should enable us to identify and attract well-positioned prospective portfolio companies.

We concentrate our investing activities in industries in which our investment professionals have investment experience. We believe that our focus on financing technology-related companies will enable us to leverage our expertise in structuring prospective investments, to assess the value of both tangible and intangible assets, to evaluate the business prospects and operating characteristics of technology-related companies and to identify and originate potentially attractive investments with these types of companies.

Mitigate Risk of Principal Loss and Build a Portfolio of Equity-Related Securities. We expect that our investments have the potential to produce attractive risk adjusted returns through current income, in the form of interest and fee income, as well as capital appreciation from equity-related securities. We believe that we can mitigate the risk of loss on our debt investments through the combination of loan principal amortization, cash interest payments, relatively short maturities, security interests in the assets of our portfolio companies, covenants requiring prospective portfolio companies to have certain amounts of available cash at the time of our investment and the continued support from a venture capital or private equity firm at the time we make our investment.

In addition, historically our structured debt investments typically include warrants or other equity interests, giving us the potential to realize equity-like returns on a portion of our investment. We expect, in some cases, to receive the right to make additional equity investments in our portfolio companies in connection with future equity financing rounds. We believe these equity interests will create the potential for long-term capital gains in connection with the future liquidity events of these technology-related companies.

Provide Customized Financing Complementary to Financial Sponsors' Capital. We offer a broad range of investment structures and possess expertise and experience to effectively structure and price investments in technology-related companies. Unlike many of our competitors that only invest in companies that fit a specific set of investment parameters, we have the flexibility to structure our investments to suit the particular needs of our portfolio companies. We offer customized financing solutions ranging from senior debt to equity capital, with a focus on structured mezzanine debt.

We use our relationships in the financial sponsor community to originate investment opportunities. Because venture capital and private equity funds typically invest solely in the equity securities of their portfolio companies, we believe that our debt investments will be viewed as an attractive source of capital, both by the portfolio company and by the portfolio company's financial sponsor. In addition, we believe that many venture capital and private equity fund sponsors encourage their portfolio companies to use debt financing for a portion of their capital needs as a means of potentially enhancing equity returns, minimizing equity dilution and increasing valuations prior to a subsequent equity financing round or a liquidity event.

Invest at Various Stages of Development. We provide growth capital to technology-related companies at all stages of development, from emerging-growth companies, to expansion-stage companies and established companies. Established companies are comprised generally of private companies in one of their final rounds of financing prior to a liquidity event or select publicly-traded companies that lack access to public capital or are sensitive to equity ownership dilution. We believe that this provides us with a broader range of potential investment opportunities than those available to many of our competitors, who generally focus their investments

Table of Contents

on a particular stage in a company's development. Because of the flexible structure of our investments and the extensive experience of our investment professionals, we believe we are well positioned to take advantage of these investment opportunities at all stages of prospective portfolio companies' development.

Benefit from Our Efficient Organizational Structure. We believe that the perpetual nature of our corporate structure enables us to be a long-term partner for our portfolio companies in contrast to traditional mezzanine and investment funds, which typically have a limited life. In addition, because of our access to the equity markets, we believe that we may benefit from a lower cost of capital than that available to private investment funds. We are not subject to requirements to return invested capital to investors nor do we have a finite investment horizon. Capital providers that are subject to such limitations are often required to seek a liquidity event more quickly than they otherwise might, which can result in a lower overall return on an investment.

Deal Sourcing Through Our Proprietary Database. We have developed a proprietary and comprehensive structured query language-based (SQL) database system to track various aspects of our investment process including sourcing, originations, transaction monitoring and post-investment performance. As of December 31, 2006, our proprietary SQL-based database system included over 10,900 technology-related companies and over 3,000 venture capital private equity sponsors/investors, as well as various other industry contacts. This proprietary SQL system allows us to maintain, cultivate and grow our industry relationships while providing us with comprehensive details on companies in the technology-related industries and their financial sponsors.

Asset Management

We may engage in the asset management business by providing investment advisory services to externally managed funds that may be formed in the future. Such funds may focus on our lower yielding assets, such as senior debt, equipment based only financing or equity only funding. We may contribute assets currently in our portfolio to such funds to the extent that our management and Board of Directors deems it appropriate. We may, from time to time, serve as the investment manager of such funds and may receive management and other fees for such services. Such funds may have overlapping investment objectives with us and may invest in asset classes similar to those targeted by us.

Dividend Reinvestment Plan

We have adopted an opt-out dividend reinvestment plan through which distributions are paid to stockholders in the form of additional shares of our common stock, unless a stockholder elects to receive cash. See [Dividend Reinvestment Plan](#). Those stockholders whose shares are held by a broker or other financial intermediary may receive distributions in cash by notifying their broker or other financial intermediary of their election.

Taxation

From incorporation through December 31, 2005, we were taxed as a corporation under Subchapter C of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, which we refer to in this prospectus as the Code. We will elect to be treated for federal income tax purposes as a regulated investment company (a RIC) under Subchapter M of the Code with the filing of our federal corporate income tax return for 2006, which election will be effective as of January 1, 2006. As a RIC, we generally will not pay corporate-level federal income taxes on any ordinary income or capital gains that we distribute to our stockholders as dividends. We may be required, however, to pay corporate-level federal income taxes on gains built into our assets under certain circumstances. See [Certain United States Federal Income Tax Considerations - Conversion to Regulated](#)

Investment Company

Table of Contents

Status. To obtain and maintain the federal income tax benefits of RIC status, we must meet specified source-of-income and asset diversification requirements and distribute annually an amount equal to at least 90% of the sum of our net ordinary income and realized net short-term capital gains in excess of realized net long-term capital losses, if any, out of assets legally available for distribution. See Distributions. There is no assurance that we will meet these tests and be eligible to make a RIC election. If we do not qualify or do not make a RIC election, we would be taxed as a C corporation.

Use of Proceeds

We intend to use the net proceeds from selling shares of common stock for general corporate purposes, which includes investing in debt and equity securities, repayment of indebtedness and other general corporate purposes. The supplement to this prospectus relating to an offering will more fully identify the use of proceeds from such offering. We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of the common stock by the selling holders.

Leverage

We borrow funds to make additional investments, and we have granted, and may in the future grant, a security interest in our assets to a lender in connection with any such borrowings, including any borrowings by any of our subsidiaries. We use this practice, which is known as leverage, to attempt to increase returns to our common stockholders. However, leverage involves significant risks. See Risk Factors. With certain limited exceptions, we are only allowed to borrow amounts such that our asset coverage, as defined in the 1940 Act, equals at least 200% after such borrowing. Our asset coverage as of March 31, 2007 was approximately 339%. The amount of leverage that we employ will depend on our assessment of market and other factors at the time of any proposed borrowing. As of March 31, 2007, we had outstanding \$113.0 million drawn under our securitization credit facility. See Management's Discussion & Analysis of Financial Condition Borrowings. One of our subsidiaries is licensed as a Small Business Investment Company under the Small Business Investment Act of 1958; and on January 30, 2007, it received notification that its initial application for leverage had been approved allowing it to borrow up to \$50.0 million. On April 26, 2007, our subsidiary borrowed \$12.0 million under the SBA program. In May 2007, we submitted an application for approval to borrow an additional \$77.2 million under the SBA program.

Distributions

We intend to continue to distribute quarterly dividends to our stockholders. The amount of our quarterly distributions will be determined by our Board of Directors out of assets legally available for distribution. We will elect to be treated as a RIC when we file our 2006 federal income tax return, and as such, to distribute with respect to 2006 (and annually thereafter) to our stockholders at least 90% of the sum of our net ordinary income and realized net short-term capital gains in excess of realized net long-term capital losses, if any. In addition, prior to the end of our first tax year as a RIC, we will be required to make a distribution to our stockholders equal to the amount of any undistributed earnings and profits from the period prior to our RIC election. Currently, we intend to retain some or all of our realized net long-term capital gains in order to build our per share net asset value. As a result, we will elect as a RIC to make deemed distributions of such amounts to our stockholders. We may, in the future, make actual distributions to our stockholders of some or all of our realized net long-term capital gains. See Distributions.

Table of Contents

Principal Risk Factors

Investing in us involves certain risks relating to our structure and our investment objective that you should consider before deciding whether to invest. In addition, we expect that our portfolio will continue to consist primarily of securities issued by privately-held technology-related companies, which generally require additional capital to become profitable. These investments may involve a high degree of business and financial risk, and they are generally illiquid. Our portfolio companies typically will require additional outside capital beyond our investment in order to succeed or to fully repay the amounts owed to us. A large number of entities compete for the same kind of investment opportunities as we seek.

We borrow funds to make our investments in portfolio companies. As a result, we are exposed to the risks of leverage, which may be considered a speculative investment technique. Borrowings magnify the potential for gain and loss on amounts invested and, therefore increase the risks associated with investing in our common stock. Also, we are subject to certain risks associated with valuing our portfolio, changing interest rates, accessing additional capital, fluctuating quarterly results, and operating in a regulated environment. See **Risk Factors** beginning on page 12 for a discussion of factors you should carefully consider before deciding whether to invest in our common stock.

Certain Anti-Takeover Provisions

Our charter and bylaws, as well as certain statutes and regulations, contain provisions that may have the effect of discouraging a third party from making an acquisition proposal for our company. This could delay or prevent a transaction that could give our stockholders the opportunity to realize a premium over the price for their securities.

General Information

Our principal executive offices are located at 400 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 310, Palo Alto, California 94301, and our telephone number is (650) 289-3060. We also have offices in Boston, Massachusetts; Boulder, Colorado; Chicago, Illinois and the Columbus, Ohio areas. We maintain a website on the Internet at www.herculestech.com. Information contained in our website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus, and you should not consider that information to be part of this prospectus.

We file annual, quarterly and current periodic reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, which we refer to as the Exchange Act. This information is available at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information about the operation of the SEC's public reference room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. In addition, the SEC maintains an Internet website, at www.sec.gov, that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers, including us, who file documents electronically with the SEC.

Table of Contents**FEES AND EXPENSES**

The following table is intended to assist you in understanding the various costs and expenses that an investor in our common stock will bear directly or indirectly. However, we caution you that some of the percentages indicated in the table below are estimates and may vary. Except where the context suggests otherwise, whenever this prospectus contains a reference to fees or expenses paid by you or us or that we will pay fees or expenses, stockholders will indirectly bear such fees or expenses as investors in Hercules Technology Growth Capital.

Stockholder Transaction Expenses (as a percentage of the public offering price):	
Sales load (as a percentage of offering price) ⁽¹⁾	%
Offering expenses	% ⁽²⁾
Dividend reinvestment plan fees	% ⁽³⁾
Total stockholder transaction expenses (as a percentage of the public offering price)	%
Annual Expenses (as a percentage of net assets attributable to common stock):⁽⁴⁾	
Operating expenses	5.1% ⁽⁵⁾⁽⁶⁾
Interest payments on borrowed funds	2.8% ⁽⁷⁾
Fees paid in connection with borrowed funds	0.3% ⁽⁸⁾
Acquired fund fees and expenses ⁽⁹⁾	%
Total annual expenses	8.2%⁽¹⁰⁾

- (1) In the event that the shares of common stock to which this prospectus relates are sold to or through underwriters, a corresponding prospectus supplement will disclose the applicable sales load. We will not pay any underwriting discount or commission, and we will not receive any of the proceeds from shares sold by the selling stockholders.
- (2) The percentage reflects estimated offering expenses of approximately \$575,000.
- (3) The expenses associated with the administration of our dividend reinvestment plan are included in Operating expenses. We pay all brokerage commissions incurred with respect to open market purchases, if any, made by the administrator under the plan. For more details about the plan, see Dividend Reinvestment Plan.
- (4) Average net assets attributable to common stock equals estimated weighted average net assets for 2007 which is approximately \$265.6 million.
- (5) Operating expenses represent our estimated expenses for the year ending December 31, 2007. This percentage for the year ended December 31, 2006, was approximately 8.4%.
- (6) We do not have an investment adviser and are internally managed by our executive officers under the supervision of our Board of Directors. As a result, we do not pay investment advisory fees, but instead we pay the operating costs associated with employing investment management professionals.
- (7) Interest payments on borrowed funds represents estimated annualized interest payments on borrowed funds for 2007. Citigroup has an equity participation right through a warrant participation agreement on the pool of loans and warrants and shares underlying the warrants collateralized under the Citigroup facility. Pursuant to the warrant participation agreement, we granted to Citigroup a 10% participation in all warrants held as collateral. As a result, Citigroup is entitled to 10% of the realized gains on the warrants until the realized gains paid to Citigroup pursuant to the agreement equals \$3,750,000 (the Maximum Participation Limit). The obligations under the warrant participation agreement continue even after the Citigroup facility is terminated until the Maximum Participation Limit has been reached. Since inception of the agreement in 2005, we have paid Citigroup approximately \$292,000 under the warrant participation agreement thereby reducing our realized gains. During 2006, we reduced our realized gain by \$221,000 and recorded a liability and reduced our unrealized gain by approximately \$35,000 for unrealized gains in our warrant and equity investments due Citigroup under our warrant participation agreement. During the three months ended March 31, 2007, we reduced our realized gain by approximately \$16,000 for Citigroup's participation in the gain on sale of an equity security and we recorded an additional liability and reduced our unrealized appreciation by approximately \$55,000 for Citigroup's participation in unrealized appreciation in the warrant portfolio. Based on our average borrowings for the year ending December 31, 2006 and the amount of the reduction we recorded for our realized and unrealized gains for 2006, the additional cost of our borrowings as a result of the warrant participation agreement could be approximately 0.31%. There can be no assurances that the unrealized gains on the warrants will not be higher or lower in future periods due to fluctuations in the value of the warrants, thereby increasing or reducing the effect on the cost of borrowing. The value of their participation right on unrealized gains in the related equity investments since inception of the agreement was approximately \$432,000 at March 31, 2007 and is included in accrued liabilities and reduces the unrealized gain recognized by the us at March 31, 2007.
- (8) Fees paid in connection with borrowed funds represents estimated fees paid in connection with borrowed funds for 2007.
- (9) For the year ended December 31, 2006, we did not have any investments in shares of Acquired Funds that are not consolidated and, as a result, we did not directly or indirectly incur any fees from Acquired Funds.
- (10) Total annual expenses is the sum of operating expenses, interest payments on borrowed funds and fees paid in connection with borrowed funds.

Table of Contents**Example**

The following example demonstrates the projected dollar amount of total cumulative expenses that would be incurred over various periods with respect to a hypothetical investment in our common stock. These amounts are based upon our payment of annual operating expenses at the levels set forth in the table above and assume no additional leverage.

	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
You would pay the following expenses on a \$1,000 investment, assuming a 5% annual return	\$ 126.44	\$ 272.22	\$ 409.04	\$ 715.39

The example and the expenses in the tables above should not be considered a representation of our future expenses, and actual expenses may be greater or lesser than those shown. Moreover, while the example assumes, as required by the applicable rules of the SEC, a 5% annual return, our performance will vary and may result in a return greater or lesser than 5%. In addition, while the example assumes reinvestment of all dividends and distributions at net asset value, participants in our dividend reinvestment plan may receive shares valued at the market price in effect at that time. This price may be at, above or below net asset value. See [Dividend Reinvestment Plan](#) for additional information regarding our dividend reinvestment plan.

Table of Contents**SELECTED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA**

The selected consolidated financial data should be read in conjunction with Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Senior Securities on page 71 and the consolidated financial statements and related notes included elsewhere herein. The selected balance sheet data as of the end of fiscal 2006, 2005 and the period from February 2, 2004 (commencement of operations) to December 31, 2004 presented below, and the selected income statement data for fiscal 2006, 2005 and the period from February 2, 2004 (commencement of operations) to December 31, 2004 have been derived from our audited financial statements included elsewhere herein, which have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm. The selected balance sheet data as of March 31, 2007 presented below and the selected income statement data for the fiscal quarter then ended have been derived from our unaudited financial statements included elsewhere herein. In the opinion of management, the quarterly financial information derived from unaudited financial information, reflects all adjustments (consisting only of normal recurring adjustments) which are necessary to present fairly the results for the interim period. The historical data are not necessarily indicative of results to be expected for any future period.

	Quarter Ended March 31, 2007 (unaudited)	Quarter Ended March 31, 2006 (unaudited)	Year Ended December 31, 2006	Year Ended December 31, 2005	Period from February 2, 2004 (commencement of operations) to December 31, 2004
Investment income:					
Interest	\$ 9,035,989	\$ 5,634,539	\$ 26,278,090	\$ 9,791,214	\$ 214,100
Fees	642,957	852,594	3,230,366	875,429	
Total investment income	9,678,946	6,487,133	29,508,456	10,666,643	214,100
Operating expenses:					
Interest	685,965	1,676,982	5,770,485	1,800,536	
Loan fees	266,108	250,793	809,907	1,098,507	
Compensation and benefits	1,939,561	1,205,081	5,778,862	3,705,784	1,164,504
General and administrative	1,308,235	1,185,392	5,408,785	2,285,038	411,418
Stock-based compensation	253,750	123,000	617,600	252,000	680,000
Total operating expenses	4,453,619	4,441,248	18,385,639	9,141,865	2,255,922
Net investment income (loss) before provision for income tax and investment gains and losses	5,225,327	2,045,885	11,122,817	1,524,778	(2,041,822)
Income tax expense.		1,760,000	643,088	255,000	
Net investment income (loss)	5,225,327	285,885	10,479,729	1,269,778	(2,041,822)
Net realized gain (loss) on investments.	289,702	(1,740,370)	(1,603,692)	481,694	
Net increase in unrealized appreciation on investments	816,053	3,959,481	2,507,561	353,093	
Net realized and unrealized gain	1,105,755	2,219,111	903,869	834,787	
Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations	\$ 6,331,082	\$ 2,504,996	\$ 11,383,598	\$ 2,104,565	\$ (2,041,822)
Cash dividends declared per common share	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.90	\$ 0.33	\$
	As of March 31, 2007 (unaudited)	As of March 31, 2006 (unaudited)	2006	As of December 31, 2005	2004

Balance sheet data:

Edgar Filing: HERCULES TECHNOLOGY GROWTH CAPITAL INC - Form 497

Investments, at value	\$ 342,483,418	\$ 176,800,736	\$ 283,233,751	\$ 176,673,226	\$ 16,700,000
Cash and cash equivalents	41,488,328	31,554,481	16,404,214	15,362,447	8,678,329
Total assets	386,272,034	208,576,310	301,142,209	193,647,879	25,232,672
Total net assets	269,610,740	119,039,735	255,412,822	114,352,330	25,078,133

Other data:

Total debt investments, at value	322,664,359	164,078,665	266,723,504	166,646,172	16,700,000
Total warrant investments, at value	10,499,774	8,013,898	8,440,963	5,159,791	
Total equity investments, at value	9,319,284	4,708,173	8,069,284	4,867,263	
Unfunded commitments	74,677,793	81,656,637	55,500,000	30,200,000	5,000,000
Net asset value per share ⁽¹⁾	\$ 11.68	\$ 11.63	\$ 11.65	\$ 11.67	\$ 12.18

(1) Based on common shares outstanding at period end.

Table of Contents

The following tables set forth certain quarterly financial information for each of the twelve quarters ended December 31, 2006. This information was derived from our unaudited consolidated financial statements. Results for any quarter are not necessarily indicative of results for the full year or for any future quarter.

	Quarter Ended			
	3/31/06	6/30/06	9/30/06	12/31/06
Total investment income	\$ 6,487,133	\$ 6,787,911	\$ 7,544,032	\$ 8,689,380
Net investment income (loss) before provision for income tax expense	2,045,885	2,467,508	3,117,155	3,492,269
Net investment income (loss)	2,504,996	3,366,372	1,572,639	3,939,591
Net investment income per common share (basic)	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.26	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.23

	Quarter Ended			
	3/31/05	6/30/05	9/30/05	12/31/05
Total investment income	\$ 753,973	\$ 1,912,824	\$ 3,659,998	\$ 4,339,848
Net investment income (loss) before provision for income tax expense	32,370	(333,597)	884,834	941,171
Net investment income (loss)	32,370	709,795	1,561,924	(199,524)
Net investment income per common share (basic)	\$ 0.01	\$ 0.14	\$ 0.16	\$ (0.02)

	Quarter Ended			
	3/31/2004 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	6/30/04	9/30/04	12/31/04
Total investment income	\$ 2,435	\$ 2,822	\$ 49,419	\$ 159,424
Net investment income (loss) before provision for income tax expense	(166,915)	(993,029)	(335,823)	(546,055)
Net investment income (loss)	(166,915)	(993,029)	(335,823)	(546,055)
Net investment income per common share (basic)	\$	\$ (5.43)	\$ (0.16)	\$ (0.02)

(1) Operations commenced February 2, 2004.

(2) There were no common shares outstanding in the first quarter of 2004.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. Before you invest in shares of our common stock, you should be aware of various risks, including those described below. You should carefully consider these risks, together with all of the other information included in this prospectus, before you decide whether to make an investment in our common stock. The risks set forth below are not the only risks we face. If any of the following risks occur, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially adversely affected. In such case, our net asset value and the trading price of our common stock could decline, and you may lose all or part of your investment.

Risks Related to our Business and Structure

We have a limited operating history as a business development company, which may affect our ability to manage our business and may impair your ability to assess our prospects.

We were incorporated in December 2003 and commenced investment operations in September 2004. We are subject to all of the business risks and uncertainties associated with any new business enterprise, including the risk that we will not achieve our investment objective and that the value of our common stock could decline substantially. We have limited operating history as a business development company and as a RIC. As a result, we have limited operating results under these regulatory frameworks that can demonstrate to you either their effect on the business or our ability to manage the business within these frameworks. See Regulation and Certain United States Federal Income Tax Considerations. If we fail to maintain our status as a business development company or fail to qualify as a RIC, our operating flexibility and results of operations would be significantly affected.

We are dependent upon key management personnel for our future success, particularly Manuel A. Henriquez, and if we are not able to hire and retain qualified personnel, or if we lose any member of our senior management team, our ability to implement our business strategy could be significantly harmed.

We depend upon the members of our senior management, particularly Mr. Henriquez, as well as other key personnel for the identification, final selection, structuring, closing and monitoring of our investments. These employees have critical industry experience and relationships on which we rely to implement our business plan. If we lose the services of Mr. Henriquez, or of any other senior management members, we may not be able to operate the business as we expect, and our ability to compete could be harmed, which could cause our operating results to suffer. We believe our future success will depend, in part, on our ability to identify, attract and retain sufficient numbers of highly skilled employees. If we do not succeed in identifying, attracting and retaining such personnel, we may not be able to operate our business as we expect.

Our business model depends to a significant extent upon strong referral relationships with venture capital and private equity fund sponsors, and our inability to develop or maintain these relationships, or the failure of these relationships to generate investment opportunities, could adversely affect our business.

We expect that members of our management team will maintain their relationships with venture capital and private equity firms, and we will rely to a significant extent upon these relationships to provide us with our deal flow. If we fail to maintain our existing relationships or to develop new relationships with other firms or sources of investment opportunities, then we will not be able to grow our investment portfolio. In addition, persons with whom members of our management team have relationships are not obligated to provide us with investment opportunities

and, therefore, there is no assurance that such relationships will lead to the origination of debt or other investments.

Table of Contents

We operate in a highly competitive market for investment opportunities, and we may not be able to compete effectively.

A large number of entities compete with us to make the types of investments that we plan to make in prospective portfolio companies. We compete with a large number of venture capital and private equity firms, as well as with other investment funds, investment banks and other sources of financing, including traditional financial services companies such as commercial banks and finance companies. Many of our competitors are substantially larger and have considerably greater financial, technical, marketing and other resources than we do. For example, some competitors may have a lower cost of funds and/or access to funding sources that are not available to us. This may enable some competitors to make commercial loans with interest rates that are comparable to or lower than the rates that we typically offer. We may lose prospective portfolio companies if we do not match competitors' pricing, terms and structure. If we do match competitors' pricing, terms or structure, we may experience decreased net interest income and increased risk of credit losses. In addition, some of our competitors may have higher risk tolerances or different risk assessments, which could allow them to consider a wider variety of investments, establish more relationships and build their market shares. Furthermore, many potential competitors are not subject to the regulatory restrictions that the 1940 Act imposes on us as a business development company or that the Code would impose on us as a RIC. If we are not able to compete effectively, our business, financial condition, and results of operations will be adversely affected. As a result of this competition, there can be no assurance that we will be able to identify and take advantage of attractive investment opportunities that we identify, or that we will be able to fully invest our available capital.

Because we intend to distribute substantially all of our income to our stockholders if we are treated as a RIC, we will continue to need additional capital to finance our growth. If additional funds are unavailable or not available on favorable terms, our ability to grow will be impaired.

In order to satisfy the tax requirements applicable to a RIC, to avoid payment of excise taxes and to minimize or avoid payment of income taxes, we intend as a RIC to distribute to our stockholders substantially all of our ordinary income and realized net capital gains except for certain realized net long-term capital gains, some or all of which we currently intend to retain, pay applicable income taxes with respect thereto and elect to treat as deemed distributions to our stockholders. As a business development company, we generally are required to meet a coverage ratio of total assets to total borrowings and other senior securities, which includes all of our borrowings and any preferred stock that we may issue in the future, of at least 200%. This requirement limits the amount that we may borrow. Because we will continue to need capital to grow our loan and investment portfolio, this limitation may prevent us from incurring debt and require us to raise additional equity at a time when it may be disadvantageous to do so. While we expect to be able to borrow and to issue additional debt and equity securities, we cannot assure you that debt and equity financing will be available to us on favorable terms, or at all, and debt financings may be restricted by the terms of any of our outstanding borrowings. In addition, as a business development company, we generally are not permitted to issue equity securities priced below net asset value without stockholder approval and approval of our independent directors. If additional funds are not available to us, we could be forced to curtail or cease new lending and investment activities, and our net asset value could decline.

Because we borrow money, there could be increased risk in investing in our company.

Lenders have fixed dollar claims on our assets that are superior to the claims of stockholders, and we have granted, and may in the future grant, lenders a security interest in our assets in connection with borrowings. In the case of a liquidation event, those lenders would receive proceeds before our stockholders. In addition, borrowings, also known as leverage, magnify the potential for gain or loss on amounts invested and, therefore, increase the risks associated with investing in our securities. Leverage is generally considered a speculative investment technique. If the value of our assets increases, then leveraging would cause the net asset value attributable to our common stock to increase more than it otherwise would have had we not leveraged. Conversely, if the value of our assets decreases, leveraging would cause the net asset value attributable to our common stock to decline more than it otherwise would have had we not leveraged. Similarly, any increase in our

Table of Contents

revenue in excess of interest expense on our borrowed funds would cause our net income to increase more than it would without the leverage. Any decrease in our revenue would cause our net income to decline more than it would have had we not borrowed funds and could negatively affect our ability to make distributions on common stock. Our ability to service any debt that we incur will depend largely on our financial performance and will be subject to prevailing economic conditions and competitive pressures. We and, indirectly our stockholders will bear the cost associated with our leverage activity. Our securitized credit facility with Citigroup Global Markets Realty Corp. and which we refer to as the Citigroup facility contains financial and operating covenants that could restrict our business activities, including our ability to declare dividends if we default under certain provisions.

As of March 31, 2007, we had outstanding indebtedness of \$113.0 million pursuant to our securitized credit facility with Citigroup Global Market Realty Corp., and which we refer to as the Citigroup Facility. The Citigroup facility bears a weighted average annual interest rate of LIBOR plus 1.20%. If our portfolio of investments fails to provide adequate returns and we are unable to otherwise raise funds, we may be unable to make interest or principal payments on our indebtedness as they come due. In order for us to cover annual interest payments on indebtedness, we must achieve annual returns on our assets of at least 2% as of March 31, 2007. We expect, in the future, to borrow from, and issue senior debt securities to, banks, insurance companies and other lenders, including additional borrowings pursuant to the Citigroup Facility. See Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition Borrowings. In addition, we expect to continue to pursue financing from the Small Business Administration under its Small Business Investment Company program. As of May 2007, we have borrowed \$12.0 million under the SBA program. We are approved to borrow up to \$50.0 million and have applied for approval to borrow an additional \$77.2 million. See Regulation Small Business Administration Regulations.

As a business development company, we generally are required to meet a coverage ratio of total assets to total borrowings and other senior securities, which include all of our borrowings and any preferred stock that we may issue in the future, of at least 200%. If this ratio declines below 200%, we may not be able to incur additional debt and may need to sell a portion of our investments to repay some debt when it is disadvantageous to do so, and we may not be able to make distributions.

Illustration. The following table illustrates the effect of leverage on returns from an investment in our common stock assuming various annual returns, net of expenses. The calculations in the table below are hypothetical and actual returns may be higher or lower than those appearing in the table below.

	Assumed Return on Our Portfolio (Net of Expenses)				
	(10)%	(5)%	0%	5%	10%
Corresponding return to stockholder ⁽¹⁾	(15.63)%	(9.73)%	(3.82)%	2.08%	7.98%

(1) Assumes \$301 million in total assets, \$150 million in debt outstanding, \$255 million in stockholders' equity, and an average cost of funds of 6.50%, which is the approximate cost of funds of the warehouse facility for the period ended March 31, 2007. Actual interest payments may be different.

Because most of our investments typically are not in publicly-traded securities, there is uncertainty regarding the value of our investments, which could adversely affect the determination of our net asset value.

At March 31, 2007, approximately 89% of our total assets represented investments in portfolio companies of which, 99% are valued at fair value by the Board of Directors. We expect our investments to continue to consist primarily of securities issued by privately-held companies, the fair value of which is not readily determinable. In addition, we are not permitted to maintain a general reserve for anticipated loan losses. Instead, we are required by the 1940 Act to specifically value each investment and record an unrealized gain or loss for any asset that we believe has increased or decreased in value. There is no single standard for determining fair value in good faith. We value these securities at fair value as determined in good faith by our Board of Directors, based on the recommendations of our Board of Directors' Valuation Committee. The Valuation Committee utilizes its best judgment in arriving at the fair value of these securities. As a result, determining fair value requires that

judgment be applied to the specific facts and circumstances of each portfolio investment while employing a consistently applied valuation process for the types of investments we make. However, the Board of Directors retains ultimate

Table of Contents

authority as to the appropriate valuation of each investment. Because such valuations are inherently uncertain and may be based on estimates, our determinations of fair value may differ materially from the values that would be assessed if a ready market for these securities existed. We adjust quarterly the valuation of our portfolio to reflect the Board of Directors' determination of the fair value of each investment in our portfolio. Any changes in fair value are recorded in our statement of operations as net change in unrealized appreciation or depreciation. Our net asset value could be adversely affected if our determinations regarding the fair value of our investments were materially higher than the values that we ultimately realize upon the disposal of such securities.

Our financial results could be negatively affected if a significant portfolio investment fails to perform as expected.

Our total investment in companies may be significant individually or in the aggregate. As a result, if a significant investment in one or more companies fails to perform as expected, our financial results could be more negatively affected and the magnitude of the loss could be more significant than if we had made smaller investments in more companies. The following table shows the fair value of investments held at March 31, 2007 that are greater than 5% of net assets:

	March 31, 2007	
	Fair Value	Percentage of Net Assets
IKANO Communications, Inc.	\$ 22,581,160	8.4%
QuatRx Pharmaceuticals Company	17,651,987	6.6%
Aveo Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	15,012,526	5.6%
Portola Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	15,005,423	5.6%
Luminus Devices, Inc.	14,567,237	5.4%
Wageworks, Inc.	14,071,113	5.2%

Our financial results could be negatively affected if these portfolio companies or any of our other significant portfolio companies encounter financial difficulty and fail to repay their obligations or to perform as expected.

Regulations governing our operations as a business development company affect our ability to, and the manner in which, we raise additional capital, which may expose us to risks.

Our business will require a substantial amount of capital. We may acquire additional capital from the issuance of senior securities, including borrowings, securitization transactions or other indebtedness, or the issuance of additional shares of our common stock. However, we may not be able to raise additional capital in the future on favorable terms or at all. We may issue debt securities, other evidences of indebtedness or preferred stock, and we may borrow money from banks or other financial institutions, which we refer to collectively as senior securities, up to the maximum amount permitted by the 1940 Act. The 1940 Act permits us to issue senior securities in amounts such that our asset coverage, as defined in the 1940 Act, equals at least 200% after each issuance of senior securities. Our ability to pay dividends or issue additional senior securities would be restricted if our asset coverage ratio were not at least 200%. If the value of our assets declines, we may be unable to satisfy this test. If that happens, we may be required to liquidate a portion of our investments and repay a portion of our indebtedness at a time when such sales may be disadvantageous. As a result of issuing senior securities, we would also be exposed to typical risks associated with leverage, including an increased risk of loss. If we issue preferred stock, the preferred stock would rank senior to common stock in our capital structure, preferred stockholders would have separate voting rights and might have rights, preferences, or privileges more favorable than those of our common stockholders and the issuance of preferred stock could have the effect of delaying, deferring, or preventing a transaction or a change of control that might involve a premium price for holders of our common stock or otherwise be in your best interest.

Edgar Filing: HERCULES TECHNOLOGY GROWTH CAPITAL INC - Form 497

To the extent that we are constrained in our ability to issue debt or other senior securities, we will depend on issuances of common stock to finance operations. Other than in certain limited situations such as rights offerings, as a business development company, we are generally not able to issue our common stock at a price below net

Table of Contents

asset value without first obtaining required approvals from our stockholders and our independent directors. If we raise additional funds by issuing more common stock or senior securities convertible into, or exchangeable for, our common stock, then the percentage ownership of our stockholders at that time will decrease, and you might experience dilution. In addition to issuing securities to raise capital as described above, we anticipate that, in the future, we may securitize our loans to generate cash for funding new investments. An inability to successfully securitize our loan portfolio could limit our ability to grow our business and fully execute our business strategy.

When we are a debt or minority equity investor in a portfolio company, we may not be in a position to control the entity, and management of the company may make decisions that could decrease the value of our portfolio holdings.

We make both debt and minority equity investments; therefore, we are subject to the risk that a portfolio company may make business decisions with which we disagree, and the stockholders and management of such company may take risks or otherwise act in ways that do not serve our interests. As a result, a portfolio company may make decisions that could decrease the value of our portfolio holdings.

If we do not invest a sufficient portion of our assets in qualifying assets, we could fail to qualify as a business development company or be precluded from investing according to our current business strategy.

As a business development company, we may not acquire any assets other than qualifying assets unless, at the time of and after giving effect to such acquisition, at least 70% of our total assets are qualifying assets. See Regulation.

We may be precluded from investing in what we believe are attractive investments if such investments are not qualifying assets for purposes of the 1940 Act. If we do not invest a sufficient portion of our assets in qualifying assets, we could lose our status as a business development company, which would have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Similarly, these rules could prevent us from making follow-on investments in existing portfolio companies (which could result in the dilution of our position) or could require us to dispose of investments at inappropriate times in order to comply with the 1940 Act. If we need to dispose of such investments quickly, it would be difficult to dispose of such investments on favorable terms. For example, we may have difficulty in finding a buyer and, even if we do find a buyer, we may have to sell the investments at a substantial loss.

We may have difficulty paying our required distributions if we recognize income before or without receiving cash representing such income.

In accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and tax requirements, we include in income certain amounts that we have not yet received in cash, such as contracted payment-in-kind interest, which represents contractual interest added to a loan balance and due at the end of such loan's term. In addition to the cash yields received on our loans, in some instances, certain loans may also include any of the following: end-of-term payments, exit fees, balloon payment fees or prepayment fees. The increases in loan balances as a result of contracted payment-in-kind arrangements are included in income for the period in which such payment-in-kind interest was accrued, which is often in advance of receiving cash payment, and are separately identified on our statements of cash flows. We also may be required to include in income certain other amounts that we will not receive in cash.

Any warrants that we receive in connection with our debt investments will generally be valued as part of the negotiation process with the particular portfolio company. As a result, a portion of the aggregate purchase price for the debt investments and warrants will be allocated to the warrants that we receive. This will generally result in original issue discount for tax purposes, which we must recognize as ordinary income,

increasing the amount that we are required to distribute to qualify for the federal income tax benefits applicable to RICs. Because these warrants would not produce distributable cash for us at the same time as we are required to make distributions in respect of the related original issue discount, we would need to obtain cash from other sources to satisfy such distribution requirements. If we are unable to obtain cash from other sources to satisfy such

Table of Contents

distribution requirements, we may fail to qualify for the federal income tax benefits allowable to RICs and, thus, become subject to a corporate-level income tax on all our income.

Other features of the debt instruments that we hold may also cause such instruments to generate an original issue discount, resulting in a dividend distribution requirement in excess of current cash interest received. Since in certain cases we may recognize income before or without receiving cash representing such income, we may have difficulty meeting the RIC tax requirement to distribute at least 90% of our net ordinary income and realized net short-term capital gains in excess of realized net long-term capital losses, if any. If we are unable to meet these distribution requirements, we will not qualify for the federal income tax benefits allowable to a RIC. Accordingly, we may have to sell some of our assets, raise additional debt or equity capital or reduce new investment originations to meet these distribution requirements. See Certain United States Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation as a Regulated Investment Company.

There is a risk that you may not receive distributions or that our distributions may not grow over time.

We intend to make distributions on a quarterly basis to our stockholders. We cannot assure you that we will achieve investment results that will allow us to make a specified level of cash distributions or year-to-year increases in cash distributions. In addition, due to the asset coverage test applicable to us as a business development company, we may be limited in our ability to make distributions. Also, our credit facility limits our ability to declare dividends if we default under certain provisions.

If we are unable to manage our future growth effectively, we may be unable to achieve our investment objective, which could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations and cause the value of your investment to decline.

Our ability to achieve our investment objective will depend on our ability to sustain growth. Sustaining growth will depend, in turn, on our senior management team's ability to identify, evaluate, finance and invest in suitable companies that meet our investment criteria. Accomplishing this result on a cost-effective basis is largely a function of our marketing capabilities, our management of the investment process, our ability to provide efficient services and our access to financing sources on acceptable terms. Failure to manage our future growth effectively could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Our quarterly and annual operating results are subject to fluctuation as a result of the nature of our business, and if we fail to achieve our investment objective, the net asset value of our common stock may decline.

We could experience fluctuations in our quarterly and annual operating results due to a number of factors, some of which are beyond our control, including, but not limited to, the interest rate payable on the debt securities that we acquire, the default rate on such securities, the level of our expenses, variations in investment origination volume, variations in fee income earned, variations in and the timing of the recognition of realized and unrealized gains or losses, the degree to which we encounter competition in our markets and general economic conditions. As a result of these factors, results for any period should not be relied upon as being indicative of performance in future periods.

In addition, any of these factors could negatively impact our ability to achieve our investment objectives, which may cause our net asset value of our common stock to decline.

Fluctuations in interest rates may adversely affect our profitability.

A portion of our income will depend upon the difference between the rate at which we borrow funds and the interest rate on the debt securities in which we invest. Because we will borrow money to make investments, our net investment income is dependent upon the difference between the rate at which we borrow funds and the rate at which we invest these funds. Typically, we anticipate that our interest-earning investments will accrue and pay interest at fixed rates, and that our interest-bearing liabilities will accrue interest at variable rates. As a result, there can be no assurance that a significant change in market interest rates will not have a material adverse effect

Table of Contents

on our net investment income. We anticipate using a combination of equity and long-term and short-term borrowings to finance our investment activities.

A significant increase in market interest rates could harm our ability to attract new portfolio companies and originate new loans and investments. We expect that most of our initial investments in debt securities will be at fixed rates. However, in the event that we make investments in debt securities at variable rates, a significant increase in market interest rates could also result in an increase in our non-performing assets and a decrease in the value of our portfolio because our floating-rate loan portfolio companies may be unable to meet higher payment obligations. In periods of rising interest rates, our cost of funds would increase, resulting in a decrease in our net investment income. In addition, a decrease in interest rates may reduce net income, because new investments may be made at lower rates despite the increased demand for our capital that the decrease in interest rates may produce. We may, but will not be required to, hedge against the risk of adverse movement in interest rates in our short-term and long-term borrowings relative to our portfolio of assets. If we engage in hedging activities, it may limit our ability to participate in the benefits of lower interest rates with respect to the hedged portfolio. Adverse developments resulting from changes in interest rates or hedging transactions could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, and results of operations.

If we are unable to continue to borrow money in order to leverage our equity capital, then our ability to make new investments and to execute our business plan will be impaired.

As of March 31, 2007, we had outstanding borrowings of \$113.0 million pursuant to the Citigroup Facility. We expect to incur additional indebtedness under our subsidiary's small business investment company license from the Small Business Administration. There can be no assurance that we will be successful in obtaining any additional debt capital on terms acceptable to us or at all. If we are unable to obtain debt capital, then our equity investors will not benefit from the potential for increased returns on equity resulting from leverage to the extent that our investment strategy is successful.

In addition, the terms of available financing may place limits on our financial and operating flexibility. If we are unable to obtain sufficient capital in the future, we may:

be forced to reduce our operations;

not be able to expand or acquire complementary businesses; and

not be able to develop new services or otherwise respond to changing business conditions or competitive pressures.

It is likely that the terms of any long-term or revolving credit or warehouse facility we may enter into in the future could constrain our ability to grow our business.

As of March 31, 2007, the Company, through Hercules Funding Trust I, an affiliated statutory trust, has a \$150 million securitized credit facility with Citigroup. We expect to enter into additional revolving credit or warehouse facilities in the future. While there can be no assurance that we will be able to borrow from banks or other financial institutions, we expect that we will, at some time in the future, obtain a long-term or revolving credit facility or a warehouse facility. The current lenders have, and any future lender or lenders will have fixed dollar claims on our assets that are senior to the claims of our stockholders and, thus, will have a preference over our stockholders with respect to our assets. In

addition, we may grant a security interest in our assets in connection with any such borrowing. We expect such a facility to contain customary default provisions such as a minimum net worth amount, a profitability test, and a restriction on changing our business and loan quality standards. An event of default under any credit facility would likely result, among other things, in termination of the availability of further funds under that facility and an accelerated maturity date for all amounts outstanding under the facility, which would likely disrupt our business and, potentially, the business of the portfolio companies whose loans that we financed through the facility. This could reduce our revenues and, by delaying any cash payment allowed to us under our facility until the lender has been paid in full, reduce our liquidity and cash flow and impair our ability to grow our business and maintain our status as a RIC.

Table of Contents

Our cost of borrowing is increased by the warrant participation agreement we have with one of our lenders. In addition, our realized gains are reduced by amounts paid pursuant to the warrant participation agreement.

Citigroup has an equity participation right through a warrant participation agreement on the pool of loans and warrants collateralized under the Citigroup facility. Pursuant to the warrant participation agreement, we granted to Citigroup a 10% participation in all warrants held as collateral. As a result, Citigroup is entitled to 10% of the realized gains on the warrants until the realized gains paid to Citigroup pursuant to the agreement equals \$3,750,000 (the Maximum Participation Limit). The obligations under the warrant participation agreement continue even after the Citigroup facility is terminated until the Maximum Participation Limit has been reached.

During the quarter ended March 31, 2007, we reduced our realized gain by approximately \$16,000 for Citigroup's participation in the gain on sale of an equity security and we recorded an additional liability and reduced our unrealized gain by approximately \$55,000 for Citigroup's participation in unrealized gains in the warrant portfolio. Since inception of the agreement, we have paid Citigroup approximately \$292,000 under the warrant participation agreement thereby reducing our realized gains. In addition, our realized gains will be reduced by the amounts owed to Citigroup under the warrant participation agreement. The value of Citigroup's participation right on unrealized gains in the related equity investments since inception of the agreement was approximately \$432,000 at March 31, 2007 and is included in accrued liabilities and reduces the unrealized gain recognized by us at March 31, 2007. Citigroup's rights under the warrant participation agreement increase our cost of borrowing and reduce our realized gains.

If we are unable to satisfy Code requirements for qualification as a RIC, then we will be subject to corporate-level income tax, which would adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

We will elect to be treated as a RIC for federal income tax purposes with the filing of our federal corporate income tax return for 2006, which election will be effective as of January 1, 2006. We will not qualify for the tax treatment allowable to RICs if we are unable to comply with the source of income, diversification and distribution requirements contained in Subchapter M of the Code, or if we fail to maintain our election to be regulated as a business development company under the 1940 Act. If we fail to qualify for the federal income tax benefits allowable to RICs for any reason and remain or become subject to a corporate-level income tax, the resulting taxes could substantially reduce our net assets, the amount of income available for distribution to our stockholders and the actual amount of our distributions. Such a failure would have a material adverse effect on us, the net asset value of our common stock and the total return, if any, obtainable from your investment in our common stock. Any net operating losses that we incur in periods during which we qualify as a RIC will not offset net capital gains (i.e., net realized long-term capital gains in excess of net realized short-term capital losses) that we are otherwise required to distribute, and we cannot pass such net operating losses through to our stockholders. In addition, net operating losses that we carry over to a taxable year in which we qualify as a RIC normally cannot offset ordinary income or capital gains.

One of our wholly-owned subsidiaries is licensed by the U.S. Small Business Administration, and as a result, we will be subject to SBA regulations.

Our wholly-owned subsidiary HTII, is licensed to operate as a SBIC and is regulated by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). The SBA regulations require that a licensed SBIC be periodically examined and audited by the SBA to determine its compliance with the relevant SBA regulations. If HTII fails to comply with applicable SBA regulations, the SBA could, depending on the severity of the violation, limit or prohibit the HTII's use of debentures, declare outstanding debentures immediately due and payable, and/or limit the HTII from making new investments. The SBA also imposes a limit on the maximum amount that may be borrowed by any single SBIC. The SBA prohibits, without prior SBA approval, a change of control of a SBIC or transfers that would result in any person (or a group of persons acting in concert) owning 10% or more of a class of capital stock of a licensed SBIC. See Regulation Small Business Administration Regulations.

Table of Contents

The SBA also places certain limitations on the financing terms of investments by SBICs in portfolio companies and prohibits SBICs from providing funds for certain purposes or to businesses in a few prohibited industries. Compliance with SBA requirements may cause the SBIC to forego attractive investment opportunities that are not permitted under SBA regulations.

The SBA can revoke or suspend a license for willful or repeated violation of, or willful or repeated failure to observe, any provision of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 or any rule or regulation promulgated thereunder.

Interpretations of the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission regarding the appropriateness of the consolidation of certain of our subsidiaries may have an impact on our financial statements.

The staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the Staff) is reviewing the appropriateness of the consolidation of certain types of subsidiaries on an industry-wide basis under generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and Rule 6-03 of Regulation S-X. In connection with such review, the Staff is in the process of reviewing the appropriateness of our consolidation of certain of our subsidiaries (the Subsidiaries). In the event that the Staff disagrees with our position with respect to the appropriateness of consolidation of any of the Subsidiaries, then we will make such additional disclosures and prospective changes in accounting methods as the Staff requires on a prospective basis which will be discussed and reviewed with us.

Although we believe that our consolidation of the Subsidiaries conforms with GAAP, there can be no assurance that the Staff will ultimately concur with our position. Such events could have a material impact on our future reported results.

Changes in laws or regulations governing our business could negatively affect the profitability of our operations.

Changes in the laws or regulations, or the interpretations of the laws and regulations, which govern business development companies, small business investment companies, RICs or non-depository commercial lenders could significantly affect our operations and our cost of doing business. We are subject to federal, state and local laws and regulations and are subject to judicial and administrative decisions that affect our operations, including our loan originations, maximum interest rates, fees and other charges, disclosures to portfolio companies, the terms of secured transactions, collection and foreclosure procedures, and other trade practices. If these laws, regulations or decisions change, or if we expand our business into jurisdictions that have adopted more stringent requirements than those in which we currently conduct business, then we may have to incur significant expenses in order to comply or we may have to restrict our operations. In addition, if we do not comply with applicable laws, regulations and decisions, then we may lose licenses needed for the conduct of our business and be subject to civil fines and criminal penalties, any of which could have a material adverse effect upon our business results of operations or financial condition.

Risks Related to Our Investments

Our investments are concentrated in a limited number of technology-related companies, which subjects us to the risk of significant loss if any of these companies default on their obligations under any of their debt securities that we hold, or if any of the technology-related industry sectors experience a downturn.

Edgar Filing: HERCULES TECHNOLOGY GROWTH CAPITAL INC - Form 497

We have invested and intend to continue investing in a limited number of technology-related companies. A consequence of this limited number of investments is that the aggregate returns we realize may be significantly adversely affected if a small number of investments perform poorly or if we need to write down the value of any one investment. Beyond the asset diversification requirements to which we will be subject as a RIC, we do not have fixed guidelines for diversification or limitations on the size of our investments in any one portfolio company and our investments could be concentrated in relatively few issuers. In addition, we have invested in and intend to continue investing, under normal circumstances, at least 80% of the value of our total assets (including the amount

Table of Contents

of any borrowings for investment purposes) in technology-related and life-science companies. As a result, a downturn in technology-related and life-science industry sectors could materially adversely affect us.

Our investments may be concentrated in emerging-growth or expansion-stage portfolio companies, which may have limited operating histories and financial resources.

We expect that our portfolio will continue to consist primarily of investments in emerging-growth and expansion-stage privately-owned businesses, which may have relatively limited operating histories. Compared to larger established or publicly-owned firms, these companies may be particularly vulnerable to economic downturns, may have more limited access to capital and higher funding costs, may have a weaker financial position and may need more capital to expand or compete. These businesses also may experience substantial variations in operating results. They may face intense competition, including from companies with greater financial, technical and marketing resources. Furthermore, some of these companies do business in regulated industries and could be affected by changes in government regulation. Accordingly, these factors could impair their cash flow or result in other events, such as bankruptcy, which could limit their ability to repay their obligations to us, and may adversely affect the return on, or the recovery of, our investment in these companies. We cannot assure you that any of our investments in our portfolio companies will be successful. Our portfolio companies compete with larger, established companies with greater access to, and resources for, further development in these new technologies. We may lose our entire investment in any or all of our portfolio companies.

Our investment strategy focuses on technology-related and life-science companies, which are subject to many risks, including volatility, intense competition, shortened product life cycles and periodic downturns, and you could lose all or part of your investment.

We have invested and will continue investing primarily in technology-related and life-science companies, many of which may have narrow product lines and small market shares, which tend to render them more vulnerable to competitors' actions and market conditions, as well as to general economic downturns. The revenues, income (or losses), and valuations of technology-related and life-science companies can and often do fluctuate suddenly and dramatically. In addition, technology-related markets are generally characterized by abrupt business cycles and intense competition. Beginning in mid-2000, there was substantial excess production capacity and a significant slowdown in many technology-related industries. This overcapacity, together with a cyclical economic downturn, resulted in substantial decreases in the market capitalization of many technology-related and life-science companies. While such valuations have recovered to some extent, such decreases in market capitalization may occur again, and any future decreases in technology-related and life-science company valuations may be substantial and may not be temporary in nature. Therefore, our portfolio companies may face considerably more risk of loss than do companies in other industry sectors.

Because of rapid technological change, the average selling prices of products and some services provided by technology-related and life-science companies have historically decreased over their productive lives. As a result, the average selling prices of products and services offered by technology-related and life-science companies may decrease over time, which could adversely affect their operating results, their ability to meet obligations under their debt securities and the value of their equity securities. This could, in turn, materially adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We have invested in and may continue investing in technology-related and life-science companies that do not have venture capital or private equity firms as equity investors, and these companies may entail a higher risk of loss than do companies with institutional equity investors, which could increase the risk of loss of your investment.

Our portfolio companies will often require substantial additional equity financing to satisfy their continuing working capital and other cash requirements and, in most instances, to service the interest and principal payments on our investment. Portfolio companies that do not have

venture capital or private equity investors may be unable to raise any additional capital to satisfy their obligations or to raise sufficient additional capital to reach the next

Table of Contents

stage of development. Portfolio companies that do not have venture capital or private equity investors may be less financially sophisticated and may not have access to independent members to serve on their boards, which means that they may be less successful than portfolio companies sponsored by venture capital or private equity firms. Accordingly, financing these types of companies may entail a higher risk of loss than would financing companies that are sponsored by venture capital or private equity firms.

Economic recessions or downturns could impair the ability of our portfolio companies to repay loans, which, in turn, could increase our non-performing assets, decrease the value of our portfolio, reduce our volume of new loans and harm our operating results, which might have an adverse effect on our results of operations.

Many of our portfolio companies may be susceptible to economic slowdowns or recessions and may be unable to repay our loans during such periods. Therefore, our non-performing assets are likely to increase and the value of our portfolio is likely to decrease during such periods. Adverse economic conditions also may decrease the value of collateral securing some of our loans and the value of our equity investments. Economic slowdowns or recessions could lead to financial losses in our portfolio and a decrease in revenues, net income and assets. Unfavorable economic conditions also could increase our funding costs, limit our access to the capital markets or result in a decision by lenders not to extend credit to us.

A portfolio company's failure to satisfy financial or operating covenants imposed by us or other lenders could lead to defaults and, potentially, termination of the portfolio company's loans and foreclosure on its secured assets, which could trigger cross-defaults under other agreements and jeopardize the portfolio company's ability to meet its obligations under the debt securities that we hold. We may incur expenses to the extent necessary to seek recovery upon default or to negotiate new terms with a defaulting portfolio company. In addition, if a portfolio company goes bankrupt, even though we may have structured our investment as senior debt or secured debt, depending on the facts and circumstances, including the extent to which we actually provided significant managerial assistance, if any, to that portfolio company, a bankruptcy court might re-characterize our debt holding and subordinate all or a portion of our claim to that of other creditors. These events could harm our financial condition and operating results.

We do not control our portfolio companies. These portfolio companies may face intense competition, including competition from companies with greater financial resources, more extensive research and development, manufacturing, marketing and service capabilities and greater number of qualified and experienced managerial and technical personnel. They may need additional financing which they are unable to secure and which we are unable or unwilling to provide, or they may be subject to adverse developments unrelated to the technologies they acquire.

The inability of our portfolio companies to commercialize their technologies or create or develop commercially viable products or businesses would have a negative impact on our investment returns.

The possibility that our portfolio companies will not be able to commercialize their technology, products or business concepts presents significant risks to the value of our investment. Additionally, although some of our portfolio companies may already have a commercially successful product or product line when we invest, technology-related and life-science products and services often have a more limited market- or life-span than have products in other industries. Thus, the ultimate success of these companies often depends on their ability to continually innovate, or raise additional capital, in increasingly competitive markets. Their inability to do so could affect our investment return. In addition, the intellectual property held by our portfolio companies often represents a substantial portion of the collateral, if any, securing our investments. We cannot assure you that any of our portfolio companies will successfully acquire or develop any new technologies, or that the intellectual property the companies currently hold will remain viable. Even if our portfolio companies are able to develop commercially viable products, the market for new products and services is highly competitive and rapidly changing. Neither our portfolio companies nor we have any control over the pace of technology development. Commercial success is difficult to predict, and the marketing efforts of our portfolio companies may not be successful.

Table of Contents

An investment strategy focused primarily on privately-held companies presents certain challenges, including the lack of available information about these companies, a dependence on the talents and efforts of only a few key portfolio company personnel and a greater vulnerability to economic downturns.

We invest primarily in privately-held companies. Generally, very little public information exists about these companies, and we are required to rely on the ability of our management team to obtain adequate information to evaluate the potential returns from investing in these companies. If we are unable to uncover all material information about these companies, then we may not make a fully informed investment decision, and we may not receive the expected return on our investment or lose some or all of the money invested in these companies. Also, privately-held companies frequently have less diverse product lines and a smaller market presence than do larger competitors. Privately-held companies are, thus, generally more vulnerable to economic downturns and may experience more substantial variations in operating results than do larger competitors. These factors could affect our investment returns.

In addition, our success depends, in large part, upon the abilities of the key management personnel of our portfolio companies, who are responsible for the day-to-day operations of our portfolio companies. Competition for qualified personnel is intense at any stage of a company's development, and high turnover of personnel is common in technology-related companies. The loss of one or more key managers can hinder or delay a company's implementation of its business plan and harm its financial condition. Our portfolio companies may not be able to attract and retain qualified managers and personnel. Any inability to do so may negatively impact our investment returns.

If our portfolio companies are unable to protect their intellectual property rights, then our business and prospects could be harmed. If our portfolio companies are required to devote significant resources to protecting their intellectual property rights, then the value of our investment could be reduced.

Our future success and competitive position depend in part upon the ability of our portfolio companies to obtain and maintain proprietary technology used in their products and services, which will often represent a significant portion of the collateral, if any, securing our investment. The portfolio companies will rely, in part, on patent, trade secret and trademark law to protect that technology, but competitors may misappropriate their intellectual property, and disputes as to ownership of intellectual property may arise. Portfolio companies may, from time to time, be required to institute litigation in order to enforce their patents, copyrights or other intellectual property rights, to protect their trade secrets, to determine the validity and scope of the proprietary rights of others or to defend against claims of infringement. Such litigation could result in substantial costs and diversion of resources. Similarly, if a portfolio company is found to infringe upon or misappropriate a third party's patent or other proprietary rights, that portfolio company could be required to pay damages to such third party, alter its own products or processes, obtain a license from the third party and/or cease activities utilizing such proprietary rights, including making or selling products utilizing such proprietary rights. Any of the foregoing events could negatively affect both the portfolio company's ability to service our debt investment and the value of any related debt and equity securities that we own, as well as any collateral securing our investment.

We may not be able to realize our entire investment on equipment-based loans in the case of default.

We have provided and expect to continue to provide loans that will be collateralized only by equipment of the portfolio company. If the portfolio company defaults on the loan our sole recourse would be to take possession of the underlying equipment to satisfy the outstanding debt. The residual value of the equipment at the time we would take possession may not be sufficient to satisfy the outstanding debt and we could experience a loss on the disposition of the equipment.

Our investments in foreign securities may involve significant risks in addition to the risks inherent in U.S. investments.

Our investment strategy contemplates that a portion of our investments may be in securities of foreign companies. Investing in foreign companies may expose us to additional risks not typically associated with

Table of Contents

investing in U.S. companies. These risks include changes in exchange control regulations, political and social instability, expropriation, imposition of foreign taxes, less liquid markets and less available information than is generally the case in the U.S., higher transaction costs, less government supervision of exchanges, brokers and issuers, less developed bankruptcy laws, difficulty in enforcing contractual obligations, lack of uniform accounting and auditing standards and greater price volatility.

Some of our portfolio companies may need additional capital, which may not be readily available.

Our portfolio companies will often require substantial additional equity financing to satisfy their continuing working capital and other requirements, and in most instances to service the interest and principal payments on our investment. Each round of venture financing is typically intended to provide a company with only enough capital to reach the next stage of development. We cannot predict the circumstances or market conditions under which our portfolio companies will seek additional capital. It is possible that one or more of our portfolio companies will not be able to raise additional financing or may be able to do so only at a price or on terms unfavorable to us, either of which would negatively impact our investment returns. Some of these companies may be unable to obtain sufficient financing from private investors, public capital markets or traditional lenders. Accordingly, financing these types of companies may entail a higher risk of loss than would financing companies that are able to utilize traditional credit sources.

We may be unable or decide not to make additional cash investments in our portfolio companies which could result in our losing our initial investment if the portfolio company fails.

We may have to make additional cash investments in our portfolio companies to protect our overall investment value in the particular company. We retain the discretion to make any additional investments as our management determines. The failure to make such additional investments may jeopardize the continued viability of a portfolio company, and our initial (and subsequent) investments. Moreover, additional investments may limit the number of companies in which we can make initial investments. In determining whether to make an additional investment our management will exercise its business judgment and apply criteria similar to those used when making the initial investment. We cannot assure you that we will have sufficient funds to make any necessary additional investments, which could adversely affect our success and result in the loss of a substantial portion or all of our investment in a portfolio company.

If our investments do not meet our performance expectations, you may not receive distributions.

We intend to make distributions on a quarterly basis to our stockholders. We may not be able to achieve operating results that will allow us to make distributions at a specific level or to increase the amount of these distributions from time to time. In addition, due to the asset coverage test applicable to us as a business development company, we may be limited in our ability to make distributions. See Regulation. Also, restrictions and provisions in any future credit facilities may limit our ability to make distributions. As a RIC, if we do not distribute a certain percentage of our income annually, we will suffer adverse tax consequences, including failure to obtain, or possible loss of, the federal income tax benefits allowable to RICs. See Certain United States Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation as a Regulated Investment Company. We cannot assure you that you will receive distributions at a particular level or at all.

Any unrealized depreciation that we experience on our loan portfolio may be an indication of future realized losses, which could reduce our income available for distribution.

Edgar Filing: HERCULES TECHNOLOGY GROWTH CAPITAL INC - Form 497

As a business development company, we are required to carry our investments at market value or, if no market value is ascertainable, at the fair value as determined in good faith by our Board of Directors in accordance with procedures approved by our Board of Directors. Decreases in the market values or fair values of our investments will be recorded as unrealized depreciation. Any unrealized depreciation in our loan portfolio could be an indication of a portfolio company's inability to meet its repayment obligations to us with respect to the affected loans. This could result in realized losses in the future and ultimately in reductions of our income available for distribution in future periods.

Table of Contents

The lack of liquidity in our investments may adversely affect our business and, if we need to sell any of our investments, we may not be able to do so at a favorable price. As a result, we may suffer losses.

We generally invest in debt securities with terms of up to seven years and hold such investments until maturity, and we do not expect that our related holdings of equity securities will provide us with liquidity opportunities in the near-term. We invest and expect to continue investing in companies whose securities have no established trading market and whose securities are and will be subject to legal and other restrictions on resale or whose securities are and will be less liquid than are publicly-traded securities. The illiquidity of these investments may make it difficult for us to sell these investments when desired. In addition, if we are required to liquidate all or a portion of our portfolio quickly, we may realize significantly less than the value at which we had previously recorded these investments. As a result, we do not expect to achieve liquidity in our investments in the near-term. However, to maintain our qualification as a business development company and as a RIC, we may have to dispose of investments if we do not satisfy one or more of the applicable criteria under the respective regulatory frameworks. Our investments are usually subject to contractual or legal restrictions on resale, or are otherwise illiquid, because there is usually no established trading market for such investments. The illiquidity of most of our investments may make it difficult for us to dispose of the investments at a favorable price and, as a result, we may suffer losses.

If the assets securing the loans that we make decrease in value, then we may lack sufficient collateral to cover losses.

We believe that our portfolio companies generally will be able to repay our loans from their available capital, from future capital-raising transactions, or from cash flow from operations. However, to attempt to mitigate credit risks, we will typically take a security interest in the available assets of these portfolio companies, including the equity interests of their subsidiaries and, in some cases, the equity interests of our portfolio companies held by their stockholders. In many cases, our loans will include a period of interest-only payments. There is a risk that the collateral securing our loans may decrease in value over time, may be difficult to sell in a timely manner, may be difficult to appraise and may fluctuate in value based upon the success of the business and market conditions, including as a result of the inability of a portfolio company to raise additional capital. In some circumstances, our lien could be subordinated to claims of other creditors. Additionally, a deterioration in a portfolio company's financial condition and prospects, including its inability to raise additional capital, may be accompanied by a deterioration in the value of the collateral for the loan. Moreover, in the case of some of our structured mezzanine debt, we may not have a first lien position on the collateral. Consequently, the fact that a loan is secured does not guarantee that we will receive principal and interest payments according to the loan's terms, or that we will be able to collect on the loan should we be forced to enforce our remedies. In addition, because we invest in technology-related companies, a substantial portion of the assets securing our investment may be in the form of intellectual property, if any, inventory and equipment and, to a lesser extent, cash and accounts receivable. Intellectual property, if any, that is securing our loan could lose value if, among other things, the company's rights to the intellectual property are challenged or if the company's license to the intellectual property is revoked or expires. Inventory may not be adequate to secure our loan if our valuation of the inventory at the time that we made the loan was not accurate or if there is a reduction in the demand for the inventory. Similarly, any equipment securing our loan may not provide us with the anticipated security if there are changes in technology or advances in new equipment that render the particular equipment obsolete or of limited value, or if the company fails to adequately maintain or repair the equipment. Any one or more of the preceding factors could materially impair our ability to recover principal in a foreclosure.

Our portfolio companies may incur debt that ranks equally with, or senior to, our investments in such companies.

We invest primarily in debt securities issued by our portfolio companies. In some cases, portfolio companies will be permitted to have other debt that ranks equally with, or senior to, the debt securities in which we invest. Such debt instruments may provide that the holders thereof are entitled to receive payment of interest or principal on or before the dates on which we are entitled to receive payments in respect of the debt securities in which we

Table of Contents

invest. Also, in the event of insolvency, liquidation, dissolution, reorganization or bankruptcy of a portfolio company, holders of debt instruments ranking senior to our investment in that portfolio company would typically be entitled to receive payment in full before we receive any distribution in respect of our investment. After repaying such senior creditors, such portfolio company might not have any remaining assets to use for repaying its obligation to us. In the case of debt ranking equally with debt securities in which we invest, we would have to share on a pari passu basis any distributions with other creditors holding such debt in the event of an insolvency, liquidation, dissolution, reorganization or bankruptcy. In addition, we would not be in a position to control any portfolio company by investing in its debt securities. As a result, we are subject to the risk that a portfolio company in which we invest may make business decisions with which we disagree and the management of such companies, as representatives of the holders of their common equity, may take risks or otherwise act in ways that do not best serve our interests as debt investors.

Our equity investments are highly speculative, and we may not realize gains from these investments. If our equity investments do not generate gains, then the return on our invested capital will be lower than it would otherwise be, which could result in a decline in the value of shares of our common stock.

When we invest in debt securities, we generally expect to acquire warrants or other equity securities as well. Our goal is ultimately to dispose of these equity interests and realize gains upon disposition of such interests. We cannot predict or control the timing of liquidity events of our portfolio companies. Over time, the gains that we realize on these equity interests may offset, to some extent, losses that we experience on defaults under debt securities that we hold. However, the equity interests that we receive may not appreciate in value and, in fact, may decline in value. Accordingly, we may not be able to realize gains from our equity interests, and any gains that we do realize on the disposition of any equity interests may not be sufficient to offset any other losses that we experience.

We do not control any of our portfolio companies and therefore our portfolio companies may make decisions with which we disagree.

We do not control any of our portfolio companies, even though we may have board observation rights and our debt agreements may contain certain restrictive covenants. As a result, we are subject to the risk that a portfolio company in which we invest may make business decisions with which we disagree and the management of such company, as representatives of the holders of their common equity, may take risks or otherwise act in ways that do not serve our interests as debt investors.

Prepayments of our debt investments by our portfolio companies could adversely impact our results of operations and reduce our return on equity.

We are subject to the risk that the investments we make in our portfolio companies may be repaid prior to maturity. When this occurs, we will generally reinvest these proceeds in temporary investments, pending their future investment in new portfolio companies. These temporary investments will typically have substantially lower yields than the debt being prepaid and we could experience significant delays in reinvesting these amounts. Any future investment in a new portfolio company may also be at lower yields than the debt that was repaid. As a result, our results of operations could be materially adversely affected if one or more of our portfolio companies elects to prepay amounts owed to us. Additionally, prepayments could negatively impact our return on equity, which could result in a decline in the market price of our common stock.

Risks Related to an Offering of Our Shares

Our common stock price may be volatile and may decrease substantially.

The trading price of our common stock following an offering may fluctuate substantially. The price of the common stock that will prevail in the market after an offering may be higher or lower than the price you paid and

Table of Contents

the liquidity of our common stock may be limited, in each case depending on many factors, some of which are beyond our control and may not be directly related to our operating performance. These factors include, but are not limited to, the following:

price and volume fluctuations in the overall stock market from time to time;

significant volatility in the market price and trading volume of securities of RICs, business development companies or other financial services companies;

any inability to deploy or invest our capital;

fluctuations in interest rates;

any shortfall in revenue or net income or any increase in losses from levels expected by investors or securities analysts;

operating performance of companies comparable to us;

changes in regulatory policies or tax guidelines with respect to RICs or business development companies;

losing RIC status;

actual or anticipated changes in our earnings or fluctuations in our operating results, or changes in the expectations of securities analysts;

changes in the value of our portfolio of investments;

realized losses in investments in our portfolio companies;

general economic conditions and trends;

loss of a major funding source; or

departures of key personnel.

In the past, following periods of volatility in the market price of a company's securities, securities class action litigation has often been brought against that company. Due to the potential volatility of our stock price, we may be the target of securities litigation in the future. Securities litigation could result in substantial costs and could divert management's attention and resources from our business.

We may be unable to invest the net proceeds raised from an offering on acceptable terms, which would harm our financial condition and operating results.

Until we identify investments for our portfolio, we intend to invest the net proceeds from an offering in cash, cash equivalents, U.S. government securities or high-quality debt securities. We cannot assure you that we will be able to complete investments that meet our investment criteria or that any investment we complete using the proceeds from an offering will produce a sufficient return. Moreover, because we may not have identified all investments at the time of an offering, we will have broad authority to invest the net proceeds of an offering. We will not receive any proceeds from an offering by the selling holders.

Investing in shares of our common stock may involve an above average degree of risk.

The investments we make in accordance with our investment objective may result in a higher amount of risk, volatility or loss of principal than alternative investment options. Our investments in portfolio companies may be highly speculative and aggressive, and therefore, an investment in our common stock may not be suitable for investors with lower risk tolerance.

Table of Contents

We cannot assure you that the market price of our common stock will not decline.

We cannot predict the price at which our common stock will trade. Shares of closed-end investment companies have in the past frequently traded at discounts to their net asset values and our stock may also be discounted in the market. This characteristic of closed-end investment companies is separate and distinct from the risk that our net asset value per share may decline. We cannot predict whether shares of our common stock will trade above, at or below our net asset value. The risk of loss associated with this characteristic of closed-end investment companies may be greater for investors expecting to sell shares of common stock purchased in this offering soon after the offering. In addition, if our common stock trades below its net asset value, we will generally not be able to issue additional shares of our common stock at its market price without first obtaining the approval for such issuance from our stockholders and our independent directors.

Provisions of the Maryland General Corporation Law, and of our charter and bylaws, could deter takeover attempts and have an adverse impact on the price of our common stock.

The Maryland General Corporation Law and our charter and bylaws contain provisions that may have the effect of discouraging, delaying, or making difficult a change in control of our company or the removal of our incumbent directors. We will be covered by the Business Combination Act of the Maryland General Corporation Law to the extent that such statute is not superseded by applicable requirements of the 1940 Act. However, our Board of Directors has adopted a resolution exempting from the Business Combination Act any business combination between us and any person to the extent that such business combination receives the prior approval of our board, including a majority of our directors who are not interested persons as defined in the 1940 Act. Our Board of Directors has already adopted a resolution exempting from the Business Combination Act any business combination between us and certain investment funds managed by JMP Asset Management, LLC and certain investment funds managed by Farallon Capital Management, L.L.C., and we have agreed with such investment funds that we will not alter or repeal such board resolution prior to the date that is two years after such investment funds cease to own at least 10% of our outstanding common stock in a manner that would make the Business Combination Act applicable to acquisitions of our stock by such investment funds without the written consent of such investment funds. In addition, our bylaws contain a provision exempting from the Control Share Acquisition Act any and all acquisitions by any person of shares of our stock. We have agreed with certain investment funds managed by JMP Asset Management, LLC and certain investment funds managed by Farallon Capital Management, L.L.C. that we will not repeal or amend such provision of our bylaws in a manner that would make the Control Share Acquisition Act applicable to acquisitions of our stock by such investment funds without the written consent of such investment funds prior to the date that is two years after such investment funds cease to own at least 10% of our outstanding common stock. If the applicable board resolution is repealed following such period of time or if our board does not otherwise approve a business combination, the Business Combination Act and the Control Share Acquisition Act (if we amend our bylaws to be subject to that Act) may discourage others from trying to acquire control of us and increase the difficulty of consummating any offer.

Under our charter, our Board of Directors is divided into three classes serving staggered terms, which will make it more difficult for a hostile bidder to acquire control of us. In addition, our Board of Directors may, without stockholder action, authorize the issuance of shares of stock in one or more classes or series, including preferred stock. See Description of Capital Stock. Subject to compliance with the 1940 Act, our Board of Directors may, without stockholder action, amend our charter to increase the number of shares of stock of any class or series that we have authority to issue. The existence of these provisions, among others, may have a negative impact on the price of our common stock and may discourage third party bids for ownership of our company. These provisions may prevent any premiums being offered to you for shares of our common stock.

Table of Contents

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS; MARKET DATA

The matters discussed in this prospectus, as well as in future oral and written statements by management of Hercules Technology Growth Capital, that are forward-looking statements are based on current management expectations that involve substantial risks and uncertainties which could cause actual results to differ materially from the results expressed in, or implied by, these forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements relate to future events or our future financial performance. We generally identify forward-looking statements by terminology such as may, will, should, expects, plans, anticipates, could, intends, target, projects, contemplates, believes, estimates, pre the negative of these terms or other similar words. Important assumptions include our ability to originate new investments, achieve certain margins and levels of profitability, the availability of additional capital, and the ability to maintain certain debt to asset ratios. In light of these and other uncertainties, the inclusion of a projection or forward-looking statement in this prospectus should not be regarded as a representation by us that our plans or objectives will be achieved. The forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus include statements as to:

our future operating results;

our business prospects and the prospects of our prospective portfolio companies;

the impact of investments that we expect to make;

our informal relationships with third parties;

the dependence of our future success on the general economy and its impact on the industries in which we invest;

the ability of our portfolio companies to achieve their objectives;

our expected financings and investments;

our regulatory structure and tax status;

our ability to operate as a business development company and a regulated investment company;

the adequacy of our cash resources and working capital; and

the timing of cash flows, if any, from the operations of our portfolio companies.

For a discussion of factors that could cause our actual results to differ from forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus, please see the discussion under Risk Factors. You should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements made in this prospectus relate only to events as of the date on which the statements are made. We undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances occurring after the date of this prospectus.

This prospectus contains third-party estimates and data regarding valuations of venture capital-backed companies. These data were reported by Dow Jones, VentureOne, an independent venture capital industry research company which we refer to as VentureOne. VentureOne is commonly relied upon as an information source in the venture capital industry. Although we have not independently verified any such data, we believe that the industry information contained in such releases and data tables and included in this prospectus is reliable.

We have compiled certain industry estimates presented in this prospectus from internally generated information and data. While we believe our estimates are reliable, they have not been verified by any independent sources. The estimates are based on a number of assumptions, including increasing investment in venture capital and private equity-backed companies. Actual results may differ from projections and estimates, and this market may not grow at the rates projected, or at all. If this market fails to grow at projected rates, our business and the market price of our common stock could be materially adversely affected.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We intend to use the net proceeds from selling shares of common stock for general corporate purposes, which include investing in debt and equity securities, repayment of indebtedness and other general corporate purposes. The supplement to this prospectus relating to an offering will more fully identify the use of proceeds from such offering. We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of the common stock by the selling holders.

We anticipate that substantially all of the net proceeds from any offering of our shares of common stock will be used as described above within twelve months, but in no event longer than two years. Pending such uses and investments, we will invest the net proceeds primarily in cash, cash equivalents, U.S. government securities or high-quality debt securities maturing in one year or less from the time of investment.

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

Our common stock is traded on the Nasdaq Global Market under the symbol HTGC. We completed the initial public offer of our common stock in June 2005 at a price of \$13.00 per share. Prior to such date, there was no public market for our common stock.

The following table sets forth the range of high and low sales prices of our common stock as reported on the Nasdaq Global Market and the dividends declared by us for each fiscal quarter since our initial public offer. The stock quotations are interdealer quotations and do not include markups, markdowns or commissions.

	Price Range			Premium/ Discount of High Sales	Premium/ Discount of Low Sales	Cash Dividend
	NAV ⁽¹⁾	High	Low	Price to NAV	Price to NAV	per Share ⁽²⁾
2005						
Second quarter (June 9, 2005 through June 30, 2005)	\$ 11.55	\$ 13.19	\$ 12.45	114.2%	107.8%	
Third quarter	\$ 11.71	\$ 14.41	\$ 11.90	123.1%	101.6%	\$ 0.025
Fourth quarter	\$ 11.67	\$ 12.68	\$ 9.71	108.7%	83.2%	\$ 0.300
2006						
First quarter	\$ 11.63	\$ 11.99	\$ 10.50	103.1%	90.3%	\$ 0.300
Second quarter	\$ 11.24	\$ 12.53	\$ 10.88	111.5%	96.8%	\$ 0.300
Third quarter	11.06	\$ 12.90	\$ 11.11	116.6%	100.5%	\$ 0.300
Fourth quarter	11.65	\$ 14.25	\$ 12.50	122.3%	107.3%	\$ 0.300
2007						
First quarter	11.68	14.50	12.77	124.1%	109.3%	\$ 0.300
Second quarter (through May 8, 2007)	*	\$ 14.71	\$ 13.50	*	*	

(1) Net asset value per share is generally determined as of the last day in the relevant quarter and therefore may not reflect the net asset value per share on the date of the high and low sales prices. The net asset values shown are based on outstanding shares at the end of each period.

(2) Represents the dividend declared in the specified quarter. As of the date of this prospectus, no dividend has been declared for the second quarter of 2007.

* Net asset value has not yet been calculated for this period.

The last reported price for our common stock on May 8, 2007 was \$14.44 per share.

Shares of business development companies may trade at a market price that is less than the value of the net assets attributable to those shares. The possibility that our shares of common stock will trade at a discount from net asset value or at premiums that are unsustainable over the long term are separate and distinct from the risk that our net asset value will decrease. At times, our shares of common stock have traded at a premium to net asset value and at times our shares of common stock have traded at a discount to the net assets attributable to those shares. It is not possible to predict whether the shares offered hereby will trade at, above, or below net asset value.

Dividends

The following table summarizes our dividends declared and paid on all shares, including restricted stock, to date:

Date Declared	Record Date	Payment Date	Amount Per Share
October 27, 2005	November 1, 2005	November 17, 2005	\$ 0.025
December 9, 2005	January 6, 2006	January 27, 2006	0.300
April 3, 2006	April 10, 2006	May 5, 2006	0.300
July 19, 2006	July 31, 2006	August 28, 2006	0.300
October 16, 2006	November 6, 2006	December 1, 2006	0.300
February 7, 2007	February 19, 2007	March 19, 2007	0.300
			\$ 1.525

Table of Contents

On May 1, 2007, the Board of Directors declared a dividend of \$0.30 per share, payable on June 18, 2007 to shareholders of record as of May 16, 2007. Distributions in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits would be treated first as a return of capital to the extent of the stockholder's tax basis, and any remaining distributions would be treated as a capital gain. The determination of the tax attributes of our distributions is made annually as of the end of our fiscal year based upon its taxable income for the full year and distributions paid for the full year, therefore a determination made on a quarterly basis may not be representative of the actual tax attributes of our distributions for a full year. If we determined the tax attributes of our distributions year-to-date as of March 31, 2007, 80.1% would be from ordinary income and 19.9% would be a return of capital for stockholders, however there can be no certainty to stockholders that this determination is representative of what the tax attributes of its 2007 distributions to stockholders will actually be.

We intend to distribute quarterly dividends to our stockholders. In order to avoid certain excise taxes imposed on RICs, we currently intend to distribute during each calendar year an amount at least equal to the sum of (1) 98% of our ordinary income for the calendar year, (2) 98% of our capital gains in excess of capital losses for the one year period ending on October 31 of the calendar year, and (3) any ordinary income and net capital gains for the preceding year that were not distributed during such year. We will not be subject to excise taxes on amounts on which we are required to pay corporate income tax (such as retained net capital gains). In order to obtain the tax benefits applicable to RICs, we will be required to distribute to our stockholders with respect to each taxable year at least 90% of our ordinary income and realized net short-term capital gains in excess of realized net long-term capital losses.

We currently intend to retain for investment some or all of our net capital gains (that is, the excess of our realized net long-term capital gains over our realized net short-term capital losses) and to make deemed distributions to our stockholders of any retained net capital gains. If this happens, you will be treated as if you received an actual distribution of the capital gains we retain and then reinvested the net after-tax proceeds in our common stock. You also may be eligible to claim a tax credit (or, in certain circumstances, a tax refund) equal to your allocable share of the tax we paid on the capital gains deemed distributed to you. Please refer to [Certain United States Federal Income Tax Considerations](#) for further information regarding the consequences of our retention of net capital gains. To the extent that we do not retain all of our net capital gains, we will make actual distributions to our stockholders of such gains.

We can offer no assurance that we will achieve results that will permit the payment of any cash distributions and, if we issue senior securities, we will be prohibited from making distributions if doing so causes us to fail to maintain the asset coverage ratios stipulated by the 1940 Act or if distributions are limited by the terms of any of our borrowings. See [Regulation](#).

We maintain an [opt-out dividend reinvestment plan](#) for our common stockholders. As a result, if we declare a dividend, cash dividends will be automatically reinvested in additional shares of our common stock unless the stockholder specifically [opts out](#) of the dividend reinvestment plan and chooses to receive cash dividends. See [Dividend Reinvestment Plan](#).

Our ability to make distributions will be limited by the asset coverage requirements under the 1940 Act. For a more detailed discussion, see [Regulation](#).

Table of Contents

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and related notes and other financial information appearing elsewhere in this report. In addition to historical information, the following discussion and other parts of this report contain forward-looking information that involves risks and uncertainties. Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated by such forward-looking information due to the factors discussed under Risk Factors, Forward-Looking Statements; Market Data appearing elsewhere herein.

Overview

We are a specialty finance company that provides debt and equity growth capital to technology-related companies at all stages of development. We primarily finance privately-held companies backed by leading venture capital and private equity firms and also may finance certain publicly-traded companies. Our principal office is located in the Silicon Valley and we have additional offices in the Boston, Boulder, Chicago and Columbus areas. Our goal is to be the leading structured mezzanine capital provider of choice for venture capital and private equity backed technology-related companies requiring sophisticated and customized financing solutions. We invest primarily in structured mezzanine debt and, to a lesser extent, in senior debt and equity investments. We use the term structured mezzanine debt investment to refer to any debt investment, such as a senior or subordinated secured loan, that is coupled with an equity component, including warrants, options or rights to purchase common or preferred stock. Our structured mezzanine debt investments will typically be secured by some or all of the assets of the portfolio company.

We are an internally managed, non-diversified closed-end investment company that has elected to be regulated as a business development company under the 1940 Act. As a business development company, we are required to comply with certain regulatory requirements. For instance, we generally have to invest at least 70% of our total assets in qualifying assets, including securities of private U.S. companies, cash, cash equivalents, U.S. government securities and high-quality debt investments that mature in one year or less.

From incorporation through December 31, 2005, we were taxed as a corporation under Subchapter C of the Code. We will elect to be treated for federal income tax purposes as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code as of January 1, 2006. To qualify for the benefits allowable to a RIC, we must, among other things, meet certain source-of-income and asset diversification and income distribution requirements. If we qualify for RIC tax benefits, we generally will not have to pay corporate-level taxes on any income that we distribute to our stockholders. However, qualification to be treated as a RIC requires that we comply with certain requirements contained in Subchapter M of the Code. For example, a RIC must meet certain requirements, including source-of-income, asset diversification and income distribution requirements, in order to obtain RIC tax treatment. The income source requirement mandates that we receive 90% or more of our income from qualified earnings, typically referred to as good income. Qualified earnings may exclude such income as management fees received in connection with our SBIC or other potential outside managed funds and certain other fees.

Our portfolio is comprised of, and we anticipate that our portfolio will continue to be comprised of, investments in technology-related companies at various stages of their development. Consistent with regulatory requirements, we invest primarily in United States based companies and to a lesser extent in foreign companies. To date, our emphasis has been primarily on private companies following or in connection with their first institutional round of equity financing, which we refer to as emerging-growth companies, and private companies in later rounds of financing, which we refer to as expansion-stage companies. In 2007, we expect to increase our investment activity in established companies, comprised of private companies in one of their final rounds of equity financing prior to a liquidity event or select publicly-traded companies that lack access to public capital or are sensitive to equity ownership dilution.

Table of Contents**Asset Management**

We may engage in the asset management business by providing investment advisory services to externally managed funds that may be formed in the future. We may, from time to time, serve as the investment manager of such funds and may receive management and other fees for such services. Such funds may have overlapping investment objectives and may invest in asset classes similar to those targeted by us.

Portfolio and Investment Activity

The total value of our investment portfolio was \$342.4 million at March 31, 2007 as compared to \$283.2 million at December 31, 2006. The weighted average value of our investment portfolio during the quarter ended March 31, 2007 was approximately \$290.0 million. The weighted average value of the portfolio during the quarter reflects the effect of the timing of fundings occurring late in the quarter when compared to the ending portfolio value. During the three months ended March 31, 2007, we made debt commitments to 14 portfolio companies totaling \$106.5 million and funded \$78.4 million to 16 companies. During the quarter, we also received normal principal repayments of approximately \$11.1 million, two companies made early repayments of \$1.8 million, and we received pay downs of \$9.1 million on working capital lines of credit. We also made equity investments in four existing portfolio companies totaling \$1.8 million and sold one equity investment with a fair value of \$500,000. At March 31, 2007, our equity investments have a fair value of approximately \$9.3 million. At March 31, 2007, we had unfunded contractual commitments of \$74.7 million to 22 portfolio companies. In addition, as of March 31, 2007, we executed non-binding term sheets with 15 prospective portfolio companies, representing approximately \$142.3 million. These proposed investments are subject to completion of our due diligence and final approval process, as well as the negotiation of definitive documentation with the prospective portfolio companies. Not all non-binding term sheets are expected to close and do not necessarily represent future cash requirements.

Total portfolio investment activity (exclusive of unearned income) as of and for the period ended March 31, 2007 was as follows:

(\$ in millions)	March 31, 2007
Beginning Portfolio	\$ 283.2
Purchase of investments	78.4
Equity Investments	1.8
Sale of Equity Investments	(0.5)
Principal payments received on investments	(11.1)
Early pay-offs and recoveries	(10.9)
Accretion of loan discounts	0.6
Net realized and unrealized change in investments	1.0
Ending Portfolio	\$ 342.5

The following table shows the fair value of our portfolio of investments by asset class as of March 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006 (excluding unearned income):

(\$ in millions)	March 31, 2007		December 31, 2006	
	Investments at Fair Value	Percentage of Total Portfolio	Investments at Fair Value	Percentage of Total Portfolio
Senior debt with warrants	\$ 321.8	94.0%	\$ 273.2	96.5%

Edgar Filing: HERCULES TECHNOLOGY GROWTH CAPITAL INC - Form 497

Subordinated debt	11.4	3.3%	1.9	0.7%
Preferred stock	9.3	2.7%	8.1	2.8%
	\$ 342.5	100.0%	\$ 283.2	100.0%

Table of Contents

A summary of the company's investment portfolio at value by geographic location is as follows.

(\$ in millions)	March 31, 2007		December 31, 2006	
	Investments at Fair Value	Percentage of Total Portfolio	Investments at Fair Value	Percentage of Total Portfolio
United States	\$ 329.0	96.1%	\$ 269.0	95.0%
Canada	9.4	2.7%	10.5	3.7%
Israel	4.1	1.2%	3.7	1.3%
	\$ 342.5	100.0%	\$ 283.2	100.0%

The largest companies vary from year to year as new loans are recorded and loans pay off. Loan revenue, consisting of interest, fees, and recognition of gains on equity interests, can fluctuate dramatically when a loan is paid off or a related equity interest is sold. Revenue recognition in any given year can be highly concentrated among several portfolio companies.

The following table shows the fair value of our portfolio by industry sector at March 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006 (excluding unearned income):

(\$ in millions)	March 31, 2007		December 31, 2006	
	Investments at Fair Value	Percentage of Total Portfolio	Investments at Fair Value	Percentage of Total Portfolio
Drug discovery	\$ 83.9	24.5%	\$ 75.0	26.5%
Communications & networking	53.8	15.7%	19.5	6.9%
Software	41.1	12.0%	40.4	14.3%
Electronics & computer hardware	29.0	8.5%	30.6	10.8%
Specialty pharmaceuticals	27.6	8.1%	18.0	6.4%
Consumer & business products	21.4	6.3%	21.9	7.7%
Semiconductors	18.2	5.3%	15.9	5.6%
Drug delivery	15.9	4.6%	16.6	5.9%
Therapeutic	11.8	3.4%	13.4	4.7%
Internet consumer & business services	10.7	3.1%	11.7	4.1%
Energy	8.5	2.5%	8.5	3.0%
Information services	7.1	2.1%		0.0%
Diagnostic	5.6	1.6%	5.9	2.1%
Biotechnology tools	4.9	1.4%	5.8	2.0%
Media/content/info	3.0	0.9%		0.0%
	\$ 342.5	100.0%	\$ 283.2	100.0%

We use an investment grading system, which grades each debt investment on a scale of 1 to 5, to characterize and monitor our expected level of risk on the debt investments in our portfolio with 1 being the highest quality. The following table shows the distribution of our outstanding debt investments on the 1 to 5 investment grading scale at fair value as of March 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006:

Edgar Filing: HERCULES TECHNOLOGY GROWTH CAPITAL INC - Form 497

(\$ in millions)	March 31, 2007		December 31, 2006	
	Investments at Fair Value	Percentage of Total Portfolio	Investments at Fair Value	Percentage of Total Portfolio
Investment Grading				
1	\$ 16.9	5.2%	\$ 9.2	3.5%
2	246.8	76.7	220.4	82.6
3	47.5	14.7	29.3	11.0
4	11.1	3.4	7.8	2.9
5				
	\$ 322.3	100.0%	\$ 266.7	100.00%

Table of Contents

As of March 31, 2007, our investments had a weighted average investment grading of 2.16 as compared to 2.14 at December 31, 2006. Our policy is to reduce the grading on our portfolio companies as they approach the point in time when they will require additional equity capital. Additionally, we may downgrade our portfolio companies if they are not meeting our financing criteria and their respective business plans. Various companies in our portfolio will require additional funding in the near term or have not met their business plans and have therefore been downgraded until the funding is complete or their operations improve.

The weighted average yield to maturity of our loan obligations was approximately 12.72%. Yields to maturity are computed using interest rates as of March 31, 2007 and include amortization of loan facility fees, commitment fees and market premiums or discounts over the expected life of the debt investments, weighted by their respective costs when averaged and are based on the assumption that all contractual loan commitments have been fully funded.

We generate revenue in the form of interest income, primarily from our investments in debt securities, and commitment and facility fees. Fees generated in connection with our debt investments are recognized over the life of the loan or, in some cases, recognized as earned. In addition, we generate revenue in the form of capital gains, if any, on warrants or other equity-related securities that we acquire from our portfolio companies. Our investments generally range from \$1.0 million to \$25.0 million, with an average initial principal balance of between \$3.0 million and \$7.0 million. Our debt investments have a term of between two and seven years and typically bear interest at a rate ranging from 8.0% to 14.0% (based on current interest rate conditions). In addition to the cash yields received on our loans, in some instances, our loans may also include any of the following: end-of-term payments, exit fees, balloon payment fees, or prepayment fees, and diligence fees, which may be required to be included in income prior to receipt. In some cases, we collateralize our investments by obtaining security interests in our portfolio companies' assets, which may include their intellectual property. In other cases, we may obtain a negative pledge covering a company's intellectual property. Interest on debt securities is generally payable monthly, with amortization of principal typically occurring over the term of the security for emerging-growth and expansion-stage companies. In addition, certain loans may include an interest-only period ranging from three to twelve months. In limited instances in which we choose to defer amortization of the loan for a period of time from the date of the initial investment, the principal amount of the debt securities and any accrued but unpaid interest become due at the maturity date. Our mezzanine debt investments also generally have equity enhancement features, typically in the form of warrants or other equity-related securities designed to provide us with an opportunity for capital appreciation.

As of March 31, 2007, we have received warrants in connection with our debt investments in each portfolio company, and have realized gains on four warrant positions. We currently hold warrants in 62 portfolio companies, with a fair value of approximately \$10.5 million included in the investment portfolio of \$342.5 million. The warrant portfolio has risen by 31% as compared to the quarter ended March 31, 2006. These warrant holdings would allow us to invest approximately \$36 million if such warrants are exercised.

Results of Operations

Comparison of the Three Months Ended March 31, 2007 and 2006

Operating Income

Interest income totaled approximately \$9.0 million for the three-month period ended March 31, 2007, an increase of \$3.4 million or 60% as compared to \$5.6 million in the first quarter of 2006 as a result of the increase in loans outstanding. Income from commitment and facility fees totaled approximately \$643,000 and \$853,000 for the three-month periods ended March 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively. The decrease is the result of one time fees of approximately \$500,000 associated with the early payoff of a loan in the first quarter of 2006 offset by approximately

Edgar Filing: HERCULES TECHNOLOGY GROWTH CAPITAL INC - Form 497

\$290,000 of higher loan fee amortization due to higher average loan balances outstanding as a result of origination activity. At March 31, 2007, we had approximately \$4.3 million of deferred revenue related to commitment and facility fees, as compared to approximately \$3.0 million as of March 31, 2006. We expect to generate additional interest income and loan fees as we continue to originate additional investments.

Table of Contents***Operating Expenses***

Operating expenses totaled approximately \$4.5 million and \$4.4 million during the three-month periods ended March 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively. Operating expenses for the first quarter of 2007 included interest expense, loan fees and unused commitment fees under the Citigroup Facility of approximately \$952,000. Interest expense, loan fees and unused commitment fees for the first quarter of 2006 totaled approximately \$1.9 million. The decrease in these expenses relates to lower average outstanding debt balances as well as lower average interest rate on the borrowings outstanding. Employee compensation and benefits were approximately \$1.9 million and \$1.2 million during the three-month periods ended March 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively. The increase in compensation expense was directly related to increasing our headcount from 19 employees at March 31, 2006 to 29 employees at March 31, 2007. General and administrative expenses increased to \$1.3 million from \$1.2 million during the first quarter of 2006 primarily due to increased legal expenses and professional service costs related to our status as a public company and the creation of our SBIC subsidiaries as well as increased business development expenses. In addition, we incurred approximately \$254,000 of stock-based compensation expense in the first quarter of 2007 as compared to \$123,000 in the first quarter of 2006.

Net Investment Income Before Income Tax Expense and Investment Gains and Losses

Net investment income before provision for income tax expense for the three-months ended March 31, 2007 totaled \$5.2 million as compared with net investment income before provision for income tax expense in the first quarter of 2006 of approximately \$2.0 million. This change is made up of the items described above under *Operating Income* and *Operating Expenses*.

Net Investment Gains/Loss

During the three-months ended March 31, 2007, we generated a net realized gain totaling approximately \$290,000 due to the sale of equity and warrants in one portfolio company. The net realized loss for the three months ended March 31, 2006 was due to gains from the sale of equity and warrants in one portfolio company for net proceeds of approximately \$1.1 million offset by a loss of \$2.8 million in one portfolio company.

We anticipate ten to twelve liquidity events from our portfolio companies in the current fiscal year, though no assurance can be made that such events will occur or gains will be realized. According to VentureOne, during the first quarter of 2007, 13 venture-backed companies successfully completed initial public offerings raising approximately \$1.2 billion, double the aggregate amount raised a year ago. Also, according to VentureOne, the M&A market remains robust, with 95 venture-backed companies being acquired or merged with an estimated value of approximately \$9.4 billion during 2006. We believe these developments support our confidence in the potential upside in our warrant portfolio although we can not assure you we will realize any gain on our warrants. As of March 31, 2007 two of our portfolio companies entered into letters of intent (LOI s) to be acquired/merged, two have filed for initial public offerings and two are in late stage discussion to be sold. We can make no assurances that these transactions will be completed.

For the three-months ended March 31, 2007, net unrealized investment appreciation totaled approximately \$816,000. The net unrealized appreciation and depreciation of investments is based on portfolio asset valuations determined in good faith by our Board of Directors, based on the recommendations of the Valuation Committee. At March 31, 2007, cumulative gross unrealized appreciation totaled approximately \$5.7 million in 24 of our investment portfolio companies and approximately \$1.6 million of gross unrealized depreciation on 38 of our investment portfolio companies. The net unrealized appreciation totaling approximately \$816,000 for the three month period ended March 31, 2007 was the result of a net increase in the warrant portfolio of \$467,000, an increase in value of one portfolio loan by approximately \$403,000 and a reduction of approximately \$55,000 related to the Citigroup warrant participation agreement. For the three months ended March 31, 2006 net

unrealized appreciation of approximately \$2.1 million was due to the sale or write-off of investments, appreciation of approximately \$708,000 in one equity investment and net appreciation of approximately \$2.2 million in the warrant portfolio, was offset by a writedown of approximately \$908,000 in one loan and a

Table of Contents

reduction of approximately \$125,000 related to the Citigroup warrant participation agreement, resulting in net appreciation of approximately \$3.9 million.

Income Taxes

We account for income taxes in accordance with the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 109, *Accounting for Income Taxes*, which requires that deferred income taxes be determined based upon the estimated future tax effects of differences between the financial statement and tax basis of assets and liabilities given the provisions of the enacted tax law. Valuation allowances are used to reduce deferred tax assets to the amount likely to be realized.

We will elect to be treated as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code for 2006 with the submission of our 2006 tax return. Such an election and qualification to be treated as a RIC requires that we comply with certain requirements contained in Subchapter M of the Code. For example, a RIC must meet certain requirements, including source-of-income, asset diversification and income distribution requirements. The income source requirement mandates that we receive 90% or more of our income from qualified earnings, typically referred to as good income. Qualified earnings may exclude such income as management fees received in connection with our SBIC or other potential outside managed funds and certain other fees.

We reported our financial position and results of operations under Subchapter C of the Code prior to 2006. As a C corporation, we accrued income tax expense on a quarterly basis until we were able to reasonably determine that we qualified as a RIC under requirements contained in Subchapter M of the Code. During 2006, we were able to reasonably determine that we could qualify as a RIC, and we accordingly reversed the income tax expense recorded during 2006 and adjusted through operations the \$1.4 million deferred tax asset on our balance sheet at December 31, 2005. If we had been able to make the determination as of December 31, 2005, the impact of charging the deferred tax to operations would have reduced our NAV by approximately \$0.15 per share.

Net Increase in Net Assets Resulting from Operations and Earnings Per Share

For the three-months ended March 31, 2007, net income totaled approximately \$6.3 million compared to net income of approximately \$2.5 million for the three-months ended March 31, 2006. These changes are made up of the items previously described.

Basic net income per share was \$0.28 and fully diluted net income per share was \$0.27 per share for the three-months ended March 31, 2007 as compared to a basic and fully diluted income per share of \$0.25 for the three-months ended March 31, 2006.

Comparison of periods ended December 31, 2006 and 2005

Operating Income

Edgar Filing: HERCULES TECHNOLOGY GROWTH CAPITAL INC - Form 497

Interest income totaled approximately \$26.3 million and \$9.8 million for 2006 and 2005, respectively. In 2006 and 2005, interest income included approximately \$713,000 and \$351,000 of income from accrued exit fees. Income from commitment and facility fees totaled approximately \$3.2 million and \$875,000 for 2006 and 2005, respectively. The increase in both interest and fee income was directly related to increases in origination activity as net investments at fair value grew by \$106.5 million during 2006. At December 31, 2006 and 2005, we had approximately \$3.4 million and \$2.7 million of deferred income related to commitment and facility fees.

Operating Expenses

Operating expenses totaled approximately \$18.4 million and \$9.1 million during 2006 and 2005, respectively. Operating expenses for 2006 and 2005 included interest expense, loan fees and unused commitment fees under our Bridge Loan Credit Facility and the Citigroup Facility of approximately \$6.6 million and \$2.9 million, respectively. The increase in interest expense was due to a higher average debt balance of \$70.7 million

Table of Contents

in 2006 as compared to \$20.3 million in 2005. Employee compensation and benefits were approximately \$5.8 million and \$3.7 million during 2006 and 2005, respectively. The increase in employee compensation and benefits is due to increased number of employees from 19 to 26 and bonuses of approximately \$2.2 million accrued in 2006. General and administrative expenses increased to \$5.4 million in 2006 from \$2.3 million in 2005 primarily due to increased Board of Directors costs, legal expenses, professional service costs related to our status as a public company and the creation of our SBIC subsidiaries as well as increased expenses associated with operating a business development company. In addition, we incurred approximately \$618,000 of stock-based compensation expense in 2006 as compared to \$252,000 in 2005. The increase in stock-based compensation expense was due to the additional stock option grants made in 2006. We anticipate that operating expenses will increase over the next twelve months as we continue to incur higher interest expense on higher average outstanding debt balances, increase the number of our employees to support our growth and incur additional expenses related to being a public company, including expenses related to continued compliance requirements under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

Net Investment Income (Loss) Before Income Tax Expense and Investment Gains and Losses

Net investment income before income tax expense for the year ended December 31, 2006 totaled \$11.1 million as compared with a net investment income before income tax expense in 2005 of approximately \$1.5 million. This change is made up of the items described above.

Net Investment Gains

In 2006, we generated realized gains totaling approximately \$3.3 million from the sale of common stock of one communications and networking company, one internet consumer and business services company and two biopharmaceutical companies. We recognized realized losses in 2006 of approximately \$4.9 million on the disposition of loans to two portfolio companies. We recognized a realized gain of approximately \$482,000 during the year ended December 31, 2005 from the sale of common stock of one biopharmaceutical portfolio company. During 2006, we reversed approximately \$162,000 of net unrealized gains to realized gains.

For the year ended December 31, 2006, net unrealized investment appreciation totaled approximately \$2.5 million. The net unrealized appreciation and depreciation of investments is based on portfolio asset valuations determined in good faith by our Board of Directors, based on the recommendations of the Valuation Committee. For the year ended December 31, 2006, we recognized approximately \$4.9 million of gross unrealized appreciation on 11 of our portfolio companies and approximately \$1.6 million of gross unrealized depreciation on 41 of our portfolio companies. As of December 31, 2006, the net unrealized investment gains recognized by the company were reduced by approximately \$377,000 for a warrant participation agreement with Citigroup. For a more detailed discussion, see Borrowings.

Income Taxes

Through December 31, 2005, we were taxed under Subchapter C of the Code and recorded a tax expense of \$255,000 for 2005. We will elect to be treated as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code with the filing of our 2006 federal income tax return, which election will be effective as of January 1, 2006. Provided we continue to qualify for RIC tax treatment, our income generally will not be subject to federal income or excise tax to the extent we timely make the requisite distributions to stockholders. We have distributed and currently intend to distribute sufficient dividends to eliminate our investment company taxable income for 2006. As such, no provision for Federal or state income taxes related to operations in 2006 was required.

Edgar Filing: HERCULES TECHNOLOGY GROWTH CAPITAL INC - Form 497

At December 31, 2005, the Company had a deferred tax asset of approximately \$1,454,000 which was adjusted through operations during the first quarter of 2006. Upon the determination that we would qualify as a RIC, any remaining deferred tax asset was reversed. We elected to recognize all of our net built-in gains at the time of the conversion to a RIC and paid tax on the built-in gains with the filing of our 2005 tax return. In making this election, our portfolio was marked to market at the time of the RIC election and we paid

Table of Contents

approximately \$294,000 in federal and state tax on the resulting taxable gain. In addition, upon completion of the 2005 tax returns, we recorded an additional tax benefit of approximately \$345,000.

To qualify as a RIC we were required by December 31, 2006 to distribute our earnings and profits while we were taxable as a C corporation. During 2006, we distributed \$1.20 per share to our shareholders, of which approximately \$0.09 was deemed to be a distribution of these accumulated earnings and profits, \$0.97 was deemed to be a distribution of 2006 income and \$0.14 was a return of capital. The distribution of our income and our accumulated earnings and profits is considered ordinary income to our shareholders in 2006.

Net Increase in Net Assets Resulting from Operations and Earnings Per Share

For the year ended December 31, 2006 net income totaled approximately \$11.4 million compared to net income of approximately \$2.1 million for the period ended December 31, 2005. These changes are made up of the items previously described.

Basic net income per share was \$0.85 and fully diluted net income per share was \$0.84 per share for the year ended December 31, 2006 compared to basic and diluted net income per share of \$0.30 per share for the period ended December 31, 2005. The net income per share for 2006 was affected by an increase in the weighted average shares outstanding of approximately 6.4 million shares and 6.5 million shares on a basic and diluted basis, respectively, in 2006 as compared to 2005.

Comparison of periods ended December 31, 2005 and 2004

Operating Income

Interest income totaled approximately \$9.8 million and \$214,000 for 2005 and 2004, respectively. In 2005, interest income included approximately \$351,000 of revenue from accrued exit fees. Income from commitment and facility fees totaled approximately \$875,000 and \$0 for 2005 and 2004, respectively. The increases are the result of origination activity and yield from investments. At December 31, 2005, we had approximately \$2.7 million of deferred revenue related to commitment and facility fees. We expect to generate additional interest income and loan commitment fees as we continue to originate additional investments.

Operating Expenses

Operating expenses totaled approximately \$9.1 million and \$2.3 million during 2005 and 2004, respectively. Operating expenses for 2005 included interest expense, loan fees and unused commitment fees under our Bridge Loan Credit Facility and the Citigroup Facility of approximately \$2.9 million. There were no interest or loan fees in 2004. Employee compensation and benefits were approximately \$3.7 million and \$1.2 million during 2005 and 2004, respectively. The increase in employee compensation and benefits is due to increased number of employees from 11 to 19 and bonuses of approximately \$1.3 million paid in 2005. General and administrative expenses increased to \$2.3 million from \$411,000 in 2004 primarily due to increased legal expenses, professional service costs related to our status as a public company and the creation of our SBIC subsidiaries as well as increased business development expenses. In addition, we incurred approximately \$252,000 of

stock-based compensation expense in 2005 as compared to \$680,000 in 2004. The decrease in stock-based compensation expense was due to the immediate vesting of certain options granted in 2004. We anticipate that operating expenses will increase over the next twelve months as we continue to incur higher interest expense on higher average outstanding debt balances, increase the number of our employees to support our growth and incur additional expenses related to being a public company, including expenses related to the implementation of the requirements under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

Net Investment Income (Loss) Before Income Tax Expense and Investment Gains and Losses

Net investment income before income tax expense for the year ended December 31, 2005 totaled \$1.5 million as compared with a net investment loss before income tax expense in 2004 of approximately \$2.0 million. This change is made up of the items described above.

Table of Contents

Net Investment Gains

For the period ended December 31, 2005, net unrealized investment appreciation totaled approximately \$353,000. The net unrealized appreciation and depreciation of investments is based on portfolio asset valuations determined in good faith by our Board of Directors, based on the recommendations of the Valuation Committee of our Board of Directors. For the year ended December 31, 2005, we recognized approximately \$4.1 million of gross unrealized appreciation on 14 of our portfolio investment companies and approximately \$3.4 million of gross unrealized depreciation on 15 of our portfolio investment companies. Approximately \$3.3 million of the unrealized depreciation was due to a reduction in the fair value of a loan to one portfolio company. The net unrealized investment gains recognized by the company were reduced by approximately \$342,000 for a warrant participation agreement with Citigroup. We generated a net realized gain totaling approximately \$482,000 from the sale of common stock of one biopharmaceutical portfolio company. We did not recognize any realized or unrealized gains or losses during the period ended December 31, 2004.

Income Taxes

We account for income taxes in accordance with the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 109, *Accounting for Income Taxes*, which requires that deferred income taxes be determined based upon the estimated future tax effects of differences between the financial statement and tax basis of assets and liabilities given the provisions of the enacted tax law. Valuation allowances are used to reduce deferred tax assets to the amount likely to be realized.

We will elect to be treated as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code for 2006. However, such an election and qualification to be treated as a RIC requires that we comply with certain requirements contained in Subchapter M of the Code. For example, in order to obtain RIC tax treatment we must meet certain requirements, including source-of-income, asset diversification and income distribution requirements. The income source requirement mandates that we receive 90% or more of our income from qualified earnings, typically referred to as good income. Qualified earnings may exclude such income as management fees received in connection with our SBIC or other potential outside managed funds and certain other fees.

As such, we reported our financial position and results of operations under Subchapter C of the Code prior to 2006. As a C corporation, we accrued income tax expense on a quarterly basis until we were able to reasonably determine that we qualified as a RIC under requirements contained in Subchapter M of the Code. During 2006, we were able to reasonably determine that we could qualify as a RIC, and we accordingly reversed the income tax expense recorded during 2006 and adjusted through operations the \$1.4 million deferred tax asset on our balance sheet at December 31, 2005. If we had been able to make the determination as of December 31, 2005, the impact of changing the deferred tax to operations would have reduced our NAV by approximately \$0.15 per share.

Net Increase in Net Assets Resulting from Operations and Earnings Per Share

For the year ended December 31, 2005 net income totaled approximately \$2.1 million compared to a net loss of approximately \$2.0 million for the period ended December 31, 2004. These changes are made up of the items previously described.

Basic and diluted net income per share for the year ended December 31, 2005 was \$0.30 as compared to a basic loss per share of \$1.72 and diluted loss per share of \$1.58 for the period ended December 31, 2004. The net income per share for 2005 was affected by an increase in the

Edgar Filing: HERCULES TECHNOLOGY GROWTH CAPITAL INC - Form 497

number of average shares outstanding in 2005 as compared to 2004 of approximately 5.9 million shares and 5.7 million shares on a basic and diluted basis, respectively.

Table of Contents

Financial Condition, Liquidity, and Capital Resources

For the three month period ended March 31, 2007

For the quarter ended March 31, 2007, net cash used in operating activities totaled approximately \$54.4 million as compared to net cash provided by operating activities of approximately \$4.1 million for the quarter ended March 31, 2006. This increase was due primarily due to \$80.2 million used for investment in our portfolio companies offset by \$21.8 million of principal payments in the first quarter 2007 as compared \$33.0 million used for investment in our portfolio companies offset by \$34.0 million in principal repayments in the first quarter of 2006. Cash provided by investing activities for the quarter ended March 31, 2007 totaled approximately \$86,000 and was primarily used for the purchase of capital equipment offset by a decrease in other long-term assets. Net cash provided by financing activities totaled \$79.4 million for the quarter ended March 31, 2007 and was primarily comprised of net borrowings of \$72.0 million and net proceeds from the sale of common stock for \$13.6 million offset by a cash dividend payment of \$6.1 million. In the quarter ended March 31, 2006, we received approximately \$5.0 million in net proceeds from the sale of common stock, \$10.0 million of credit facility borrowings and made cash dividend payments of \$2.9 million.

As of March 31, 2007, net assets totaled \$269.6 million, with a net asset value per share of \$11.68. We intend to generate additional cash primarily from equity capital, future borrowings as well as cash flows from operations, including income earned from investment in our portfolio companies and, to a lesser extent, from the temporary investment of cash in U.S. government securities and other high-quality debt investments that mature in one year or less. Our primary use of funds will be for operations, investments in portfolio companies and cash distributions to holders of our common stock. After we have used our current capital resources, we expect to raise additional capital to support our future growth through future equity offerings, issuances of senior securities and/or future borrowings, to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act.

As required by the 1940 Act, our asset coverage must be at least 200% after each issuance of senior securities. Our asset coverage as of March 31, 2007 was approximately 339%.

At March 31, 2007, we had approximately \$41.5 million in cash and cash equivalents and available borrowing capacity of approximately \$37.0 million under our Citigroup Facility, subject to existing terms and advance rates. We primarily invest cash on hand in interest bearing deposit accounts.

During the first quarter of 2007, we received net proceeds of approximately \$2.7 million from the exercise of the 5-Year Warrants.

We anticipate that we will continue to fund our investment activities through a combination of debt and additional equity capital over the next year. As of March 31, 2007, we had \$113.0 million outstanding under the Citigroup Facility. Through March 30, 2007, advances under the Facility carried interest at one-month LIBOR plus 165 basis points. On March 30, 2007, the interest on all borrowings was reduced to LIBOR plus a spread of 1.20%. As of March 31, 2007, based on \$244.3 million of eligible loans in the collateral pool and existing advance rates, we have access to approximately \$21.4 million of borrowing capacity available under our \$150.0 million securitized credit facility from Citigroup. In addition, Citigroup has an equity participation right of 10% of the realized gains on warrants collateralized under the Citigroup Facility. See Note 4 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for discussion of the participation right. We anticipate that portfolio fundings entered into in succeeding periods will allow us to utilize the full borrowing capacity of the Citigroup Facility. See Borrowings.

Table of Contents

At March 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006, we had the following debt:

(\$ in thousands)	March 31, 2007		December 31, 2006	
	Facility Amount	Amount Outstanding	Facility Amount	Amount Outstanding
Citigroup Facility	\$ 150,000	\$ 113,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 41,000
Total	\$ 150,000	\$ 113,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 41,000

On September 27, 2006, HTII received a license to operate as a Small Business Investment Company under the SBIC program and will be able to borrow funds from the SBA against eligible previously approved investments and additional contributions to regulatory capital. On January 30, 2007, HTII received notification that its initial application for leverage under its SBC license was approved allowing HTII to commence drawing up to \$50.0 million of leverage under its first tranche of capital from the SBA. At March 31, 2007, we had a net investment of \$25.0 million in HTII, and there are eight outstanding investments in the amount of \$16.6 million. We made our first draw from the SBA on April 26, 2007 for \$12.0 million.

During the first quarter of 2007, the Company raised approximately \$10.9 million, net of estimated issuance costs when the underwriters who participated in the public offering in December 2006 exercised their right to purchase 840,000 shares of common stock. The net proceeds from the sale of the shares in the offering were used to reduce credit borrowings, originate investments and for general corporate purposes. We believe these funding sources combined with cash on hand at March 31, 2007, and cash provided from operations and financing activities will allow us to continue investing activities for 5 to 9 months.

For the Year Ended December 31, 2006

On April 21, 2006, we raised approximately \$34.0 million, net of issuance costs, from a rights offering of 3,411,922 shares of common stock. Funds raised in the offering were partially used to pay off the remaining \$15.0 million outstanding under the Bridge Loan Credit Facility and to pay down \$10.0 million under our Citigroup Facility.

On October 20, 2006, we raised approximately \$30.0 million, net of estimated issuance costs, in a public offering of 2.5 million shares of common stock delivered on October 25, 2006.

On December 12, 2006, we raised approximately \$74.1 million, net of estimated issuance costs, in a public offering of 5.7 million shares of its common stock. On January 3, 2007, the underwriters exercised their over-allotment option and purchased an additional 840,000 shares of our common stock for additional net proceeds to the company of approximately \$10.9 million.

At December 31, 2006, we had approximately \$16.4 million in cash and cash equivalents and borrowing capacity of approximately \$109.0 million under our Citigroup Facility of which approximately \$49.6 million was immediately available, subject to existing terms and advance rates. We primarily invest cash on hand in interest bearing deposit accounts.

Edgar Filing: HERCULES TECHNOLOGY GROWTH CAPITAL INC - Form 497

For the year ended December 31, 2006, net cash used in operating activities totaled approximately \$91.3 million as compared to \$156.1 million in 2005. This decrease was due primarily to proceeds of \$87.5 million in principal repayments offset by \$196.0 million used for investments in our portfolio companies as compared to \$18.8 million in principal repayments offset by \$177.8 million used for investments in 2005. Cash used in investing activities for the year ended December 31, 2006 totaled \$1.5 million and was used for the purchase of capital equipment and other long-term assets. Net cash provided by financing activities totaled \$93.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2006. In 2006, we received approximately \$143.0 million in net proceeds from the sale of common stock, and made cash dividend payments of \$14.2 million. During the year

Table of Contents

ended December 31, 2006, we fully repaid \$25.0 million under our Bridge Loan Credit Facility to an affiliate of Farallon Capital Management, L.L.C. and repaid a net \$10.0 million under our Citigroup Facility.

As of December 31, 2006, net assets totaled \$255.4 million, with a net asset value per share of \$11.65. We intend to generate additional cash primarily from equity capital, future borrowings as well as cash flows from operations, including income earned from investments in our portfolio companies and, to a lesser extent, from the temporary investment of cash in U.S. government securities and other high-quality debt investments that mature in one year or less. Our primary use of funds will be investments in portfolio companies and cash distributions to holders of our common stock. After we have used our current capital resources, we expect to raise additional capital to support our future growth through future equity offerings, issuances of senior securities and/or future borrowings, to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act.

As required by the 1940 Act, our asset coverage must be at least 200% after each issuance of senior securities. Our asset coverage as of December 31, 2006 was approximately 723%.

We anticipate that we will continue to fund our investment activities through a combination of debt and additional equity capital over the next year. As of December 31, 2006, we had \$41.0 million outstanding under the Citigroup Facility. Advances under the Facility bear interest at one-month LIBOR plus 165 basis points. As of December 31, 2006, based on \$164.9 million of eligible loans in the collateral pool and existing advance rates, we have access to approximately \$49.6 million of borrowing capacity available under our existing \$150.0 million securitized credit facility from Citigroup. As additional new loans are funded and pledged as collateral, we will be able to increase our borrowing capacity under the Citigroup Facility beyond the current \$49.6 million. In addition, Citigroup has an equity participation right of 10% of the realized gains on warrants collateralized under the Citigroup Facility. See Note 4 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for discussion of the participation right. We anticipate that portfolio fundings entered into in succeeding periods will allow us to utilize the full borrowing capacity of the Citigroup Facility.

On September 27, 2006, HTII received a license to operate as a Small Business Investment Company under the SBIC program and will be able to borrow funds from the SBA against eligible previously approved investments and additional contributions to regulatory capital. On January 30, 2007, HTII received notification that its initial application for leverage under its SBC license was approved allowing HTII to commence drawing up to \$50.0 million of leverage under its first tranche of capital from the SBA. At December 31, 2006, we had a net investment of \$10.4 million in HTII, and there are 4 outstanding investments in the amount of \$11.1 million and we have not drawn any leverage. HTM is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company. The Company is the sole limited partner of HTII and HTM is the general partner.

During the fourth quarter of 2006, the Company raised approximately \$104.1 million, net of estimated issuance costs, in a public offering of 8.2 million shares of common stock. The net proceeds from the sale of the shares in the offering were used to reduce credit borrowings, originate investments and for general corporate purposes. We believe these funding sources combined with cash on hand at December 31, 2006, and cash provided from operations and financing activities will allow us to continue investing activities for 5 to 9 months.

Off Balance Sheet Arrangements

In the normal course of business, we are party to financial instruments with off-balance sheet risk. These consist primarily of unfunded commitments to extend credit, in the form of loans, to our portfolio companies. Unfunded commitments to provide funds to portfolio companies will not be reflected on our balance sheet. Our unfunded commitments may be significant from time to time. As of March 31, 2007, we had unfunded commitments of approximately \$74.7 million. These commitments will be subject to the same underwriting and ongoing portfolio maintenance as are the on-balance sheet financial instruments that we hold. Since these commitments may expire without being drawn upon, the

total commitment amount does not necessarily represent future cash requirements.

Table of Contents**Contractual Obligations**

The following table shows our contractual obligations as of March 31, 2007:

	Payments due by period				
	(dollars in thousands)				
	Total	Less than			After
Contractual Obligations ⁽¹⁾		1 year	1-3 years	3-5 years	5 years
Borrowings ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	\$ 113,000	\$ 113,000	\$	\$	\$
Operating Lease Obligations	3,132	457	1,384	993	298
Total	\$ 116,132	\$ 113,457	\$ 1,384	\$ 993	\$ 298

(1) Excludes commitments to extend credit to our portfolio companies.

(2) Borrowings under our Citigroup Credit Facility are listed based on the contractual maturity of the credit facility. Actual repayments could differ significantly due to prepayments by our existing portfolio companies, modifications of our current agreements with our existing portfolio companies and modification of the credit facility.

(3) We also have a warrant participation agreement with Citigroup as discussed further below.

Borrowings

On August 1, 2005, we, through Hercules Funding Trust I, our affiliated statutory trust, executed a \$100 million securitized credit facility with Citigroup Global Markets Realty Corp., which we refer to as the Citigroup Facility. The Citigroup Facility is collateralized by loans and warrants from our portfolio companies, and includes an advance rate of approximately 55% of eligible loans. Interest on borrowings under the Citigroup Facility is payable monthly and was charged at one-month LIBOR plus a spread of 1.65%. We also paid a loan origination fee equal to 0.25% of the Citigroup Facility and will be subject to an unused commitment fee of 0.25%. On March 6, 2006, the Company amended the Citigroup Facility with an agreement that increased the borrowing capacity under the facility to \$125.0 million. On December 6, 2006, the Company amended the Citigroup Facility with an agreement that increased the borrowing capacity under the facility to \$150.0 million until March 31, 2007. On March 30, 2007, this increase was extended to July 31, 2007, and the interest on all borrowings was reduced to LIBOR plus a spread of 1.20%. On May 2, 2007, we amended the Citigroup Facility to extend the expiration date to May 1, 2008, increased the borrowing capacity under the facility to \$250 million and included Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. as a participant along with Citigroup Markets Realty Corp.

The Citigroup Facility contains covenants that, among other things, require us to maintain a minimum net worth and to restrict the loans securing the Citigroup Facility to certain dollar amounts, to concentrations in certain geographic regions and industries, to certain loan grade classifications, to certain security interests and to certain interest payment terms. Citigroup has an equity participation right through a warrant participation agreement on the pool of loans and warrants collateralized under the Citigroup facility. Pursuant to the warrant participation agreement, we granted to Citigroup a 10% participation in all warrants held as collateral. As a result, Citigroup is entitled to 10% of the realized gains on the warrants until the realized gain paid to Citigroup pursuant to the agreement equals \$3,750,000 (the Maximum Participation Limit). The obligations under the warrant participation agreement continue even after the Citigroup facility is terminated until the Maximum Participation Limit has been reached. During the quarter ended March 31, 2007, the Company reduced its realized gain by approximately \$16,000 for Citigroup's participation in the gain on sale of an equity security and recorded an additional liability and reduced unrealized gains by approximately \$55,000 for Citigroup's participation in unrealized gains in the warrant portfolio. The value of their participation right on

Edgar Filing: HERCULES TECHNOLOGY GROWTH CAPITAL INC - Form 497

unrealized gains in the related equity investments since inception of the agreement was approximately \$432,000 at March 31, 2007 and is included in accrued liabilities and reduces the unrealized gain recognized by us at March 31, 2007. Since inception of the agreement, we have paid Citigroup approximately \$292,000 under the warrant participation agreement thereby reducing our realized gains. There was \$113.0 million of outstanding borrowings under the Citigroup Facility at March 31, 2007.

Table of Contents

We intend to aggregate pools of funded loans using the Citigroup Facility or other conduits that we may seek until a sufficiently large pool of funded loans is created which can then be securitized. We expect that any loans included in a securitization facility will be securitized on a non-recourse basis with respect to the credit losses on the loans. There can be no assurance that we will be able to complete this securitization strategy, or that it will be successful.

Dividends

The following table summarizes our dividends declared and paid on all shares, including restricted stock, to date:

Date Declared	Record Date	Payment Date	Amount Per Share
October 27, 2005	November 1, 2005	November 17, 2005	\$ 0.025
December 9, 2005	January 6, 2006	January 27, 2006	0.300
April 3, 2006	April 10, 2006	May 5, 2006	0.300
July 19, 2006	July 31, 2006	August 28, 2006	0.300
October 16, 2006	November 6, 2006	December 1, 2006	0.300
February 7, 2007	February 19, 2007	March 19, 2007	0.300
			\$ 1.525

On May 3, 2007, we announced that our Board of Directors approved a dividend of \$0.30 per share to shareholders of record as of May 16, 2007 and payable on June 18, 2007. Distributions in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits would be treated first as a return of capital to the extent of the stockholder's tax basis, and any remaining distributions would be treated as a capital gain. The determination of the tax attributes of our distributions is made annually as of the end of our fiscal year based upon its taxable income for the full year and distributions paid for the full year, therefore a determination made on a quarterly basis may not be representative of the actual tax attributes of our distributions for a full year. If we determined the tax attributes of its distributions year-to-date as of March 31, 2007, 80.1% would be from ordinary income and 19.9% would be a return of capital for stockholders, however there can be no certainty to stockholders that this determination is representative of what the tax attributes of its 2007 distributions to stockholders will actually be.

Critical Accounting Policies

The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements, and revenues and expenses during the period reported. On an ongoing basis, our management evaluates its estimates and assumptions, which are based on historical experience and on various other assumptions that we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Changes in our estimates and assumptions could materially impact our results of operations and financial condition.

Valuation of Portfolio Investments. The most significant estimate inherent in the preparation of our consolidated financial statements is the valuation of investments and the related amounts of unrealized appreciation and depreciation of investments recorded.

Edgar Filing: HERCULES TECHNOLOGY GROWTH CAPITAL INC - Form 497

As a BDC, we invest primarily in illiquid securities, including debt and equity-related securities of private companies. Our investments are generally subject to some restrictions on resale and generally have no established trading market. Because of the type of investments that we make and the nature of our business, our valuation process requires an analysis of various factors. Our valuation methodology includes the examination of, among other things, the underlying investment performance, financial condition and market changing events that impact valuation.

Table of Contents

At March 31, 2007, approximately 89% of our total assets represented investments in portfolio companies, 99% of which are recorded at fair value by the Board of Directors. Value, as defined in Section 2(a) (41) of the 1940 Act, is (i) the market price for those securities for which a market quotation is readily available and (ii) for all other securities and assets, fair value is as determined in good faith by the Board of Directors. Since there is typically no readily available market value for the investments in our portfolio, we value substantially all of our investments at fair value as determined in good faith by our board pursuant to a valuation policy and a consistent valuation process. Due to the inherent uncertainty in determining the fair value of investments that do not have a readily available market value, the fair value of our investments determined in good faith by our board may differ significantly from the value that would have been used had a ready market existed for such investments, and the differences could be material.

There is no single standard for determining fair value in good faith. As a result, determining fair value requires that judgment be applied to the specific facts and circumstances of each portfolio investment. Unlike banks, we are not permitted to provide a general reserve for anticipated loan losses. Instead, we must determine the fair value of each individual investment on a quarterly basis. We will record unrealized depreciation on investments when we believe that an investment has decreased in value, including where collection of a loan or realization of an equity security is doubtful. Conversely, where appropriate, we will record unrealized appreciation if we believe that the underlying portfolio company has appreciated in value and, therefore, that our investment has also appreciated in value.

With respect to private debt and equity securities, each investment is valued using industry valuation benchmarks, and, where appropriate, the value is assigned a discount reflecting the illiquid nature of the investment, and our minority, non-control position. When a qualifying external event such as a significant purchase transaction, public offering, or subsequent debt or equity sale occurs, the pricing indicated by the external event will be used to corroborate our private debt or equity valuation.

Income. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis and is recognized as earned in accordance with the contractual terms of the loan agreement to the extent that such amounts are expected to be collected. Original Issue Discount, OID, initially represents the value of detachable equity warrants obtained in conjunction with the acquisition of debt securities and is accreted into interest income over the term of the loan as a yield enhancement. When a loan becomes 90 days or more past due, or if management otherwise does not expect the portfolio company to be able to service its debt and other obligations, the Company will, as a general matter, place the loan on non-accrual status and cease recognizing interest income on that loan until all principal has been paid. However, Hercules may make exceptions to this policy if the investment has sufficient collateral value and is in the process of collection. As of March 31, 2007 and 2006, no loans were on non-accrual status.

Fee Income. Loan origination and commitment fees received in full at the inception of a loan are deferred and amortized into fee income as an enhancement to the related loan's yield over the contractual life of the loan. Loan exit fees to be paid at the termination of the loan are accreted into fee income over the contractual life of the loan. These fees are reflected as adjustments to the loan yield in accordance with FAS 91, *Accounting for Nonrefundable Fees and Costs Associated with Originating or Acquiring loans and Initial Direct Costs of Leases*.

Stock-Based Compensation. We have issued and may, from time to time, issue additional stock options to employees under our 2004 Equity Incentive Plan. We follow Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123 (revised 2004), *Share-Based Payments* (FAS 123R), to account for stock options granted. Under FAS 123R, compensation expense associated with stock-based compensation is measured at the grant date based on the fair value of the award and is recognized.

Table of Contents

Recent Developments

On April 5, 2007, Hercules and its subsidiary, Hercules Technology II, L.P., received an exemptive order from the Securities and Exchange Commission allowing Hercules to exclude debt securities issued by its subsidiary, Hercules Technology II, L.P. from the asset coverage requirements applicable to Hercules. Hercules Technology Growth Capital, Inc. is the sole limited partner of Hercules Technology II, L.P.

Through its subsidiary, Hercules Technology II, L.P., Hercules Technology Growth Capital, Inc. intends to seek up to \$127.2 million in leverage in various tranches over the next two years if it satisfies certain regulatory requirements, which is the maximum amount currently available under regulations of the SBA. Hercules Technology II, L.P. is currently approved to draw up to \$50.0 million and on April 26, 2007, it borrowed \$12.0 million under the SBA program. In May 2007, we applied for approval to borrow an additional \$77.2 million.

On May 1, 2007 the Board of Directors declared a dividend of \$0.30 per share for the first quarter, payable on June 18, 2007 to shareholders of record as of May 16, 2007.

On May 2, 2007, the Company amended the Citigroup Facility to extend the expiration date to May 1, 2008, increased the borrowing capacity under the facility to \$250 million and included Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. as a participant along with Citigroup Markets Realty Corp. The credit facility is a one year facility and is renewable on May 1, 2008 with an interest rate of LIBOR plus a spread of 1.20%.

On May 3, 2007, Novadaq Pharmaceuticals, a publicly traded Canadian corporation, acquired certain assets of Xillix Technologies for cash and common stock. Of the purchase price, Hercules will receive approximately CDN \$810,000 and approximately 225,000 shares of Novadaq Pharmaceuticals common stock.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In June 2006, the FASB issued FASB Interpretation No. 48 (FIN 48), Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes an interpretation of FASB Statement No. 109 , which clarifies the accounting for uncertainty in income taxes recognized in an enterprise s financial statements in accordance with FASB Statement No. 109, Accounting for Income Taxes. FIN 48 prescribes a recognition threshold and measurement attribute for the financial statement recognition and measurement of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. FIN 48 also provides guidance on derecognition, classification, interest and penalties, accounting in interim periods, disclosure, and transition. FIN 48 became effective as of January 1, 2007.

We conducted a review of all open tax year s income recognition and expense deduction filing positions and income tax returns filed (federal and state) for determination of any uncertain tax positions that may require recognition of a tax liability. This review encompassed an analysis of all book/tax difference adjustments as well as the timing of income and expense recognition for all tax years still open under the statute of limitations. As a result, we determined that it is more likely than not that each tax position taken on a previously filed return or to be taken on current tax returns will be sustained on examination based on the technical merits of the positions and therefore, no recognition of a tax liability on an uncertain tax position for FIN 48 purposes is anticipated.

In September 2006, the FASB issued Statement on Financial Accounting Standards No. 157, *Fair Value Measurements* (FAS 157). This standard clarifies the definition of fair value for financial reporting, establishes a framework for measuring fair value and requires additional disclosures about the use of fair value measurements. FAS 157 is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007 and interim periods within those fiscal years. As of March 31, 2007, we do not believe the adoption of FAS 157 will impact the amounts reported in the financial statements, however, additional disclosures will be required about the inputs used to develop the measurements of fair value and the effect of certain of the measurements reported in the statement of operations for a fiscal period.

Table of Contents

Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk

We are subject to financial market risks, including changes in interest rates. As of March 31, 2007, 41 loans in our portfolio were at fixed rates and 22 loans were at variable rates. Over time additional investments may be at variable rates. We may, in the future, hedge against interest rate fluctuations by using standard hedging instruments such as futures, options, and forward contracts. While hedging activities may insulate us against changes in interest rates, they may also limit our ability to participate in the benefits of lower interest rates with respect to our borrowed funds and higher interest rates with respect to our portfolio of investments. Interest rates on our borrowings are based on LIBOR. At March 31, 2007, the borrowing rate under the Citigroup Facility was LIBOR plus 1.20%.

Table of Contents

BUSINESS

General

We are a specialty finance company that provides debt and equity growth capital to technology-related and life-sciences companies at all stages of development. Our investment objective is to maximize our portfolio's total return by generating current income from our debt investments and capital appreciation from our equity-related investments. We are an internally-managed, non-diversified closed-end investment company that has elected to be treated as a business development company under the Investment Company Act of 1940.

We primarily finance privately-held companies backed by leading venture capital and private equity firms and also may finance certain select publicly-traded companies that lack access to public capital or are sensitive to equity ownership dilution. Our principal executive office is located in Silicon Valley, and we have additional offices in the Boston, Boulder, Chicago, Costa Mesa and Columbus areas. Our goal is to be the leading structured mezzanine capital provider of choice for venture capital and private equity-backed technology-related and life sciences companies requiring sophisticated and customized financing solutions. Our strategy is to evaluate and invest in a broad range of ventures active in the technology and life science industries and to offer a full suite of growth capital products at all levels of the capital structure. We invest primarily in structured mezzanine debt and, to a lesser extent, in senior debt and equity. We use the term structured mezzanine debt investment to refer to any debt investment, such as a senior or subordinated secured loan, that is coupled with an equity component, including warrants, options or rights to purchase common or preferred stock. Our structured mezzanine debt investments will typically be secured by some or all of the assets of the portfolio company.

We focus our investments in companies active in the technology industry sub-sectors characterized by products or services that require advanced technologies, including computer software and hardware, networking systems, semiconductors, semiconductor capital equipment, information technology infrastructure or services, Internet consumer and business services, telecommunications, telecommunications equipment, media and life sciences. Within the life sciences sub-sector, we focus on medical devices, bio-pharmaceutical, health care services and information systems companies. We refer to all of these companies as technology-related companies and intend, under normal circumstances, to invest at least 80% of the value of our assets in such businesses.

Our primary business objectives are to increase our net income, net operating income and net asset value by investing in structured mezzanine debt and equity of venture capital and private equity backed technology-related companies with attractive current yields and the potential for equity appreciation and realized gains. Our structured debt investments typically include warrants or other equity interests, giving us the potential to realize equity-like returns on a portion of our investment. In some cases, we receive the right to make additional equity investments in our portfolio companies in connection with future equity financing rounds. Capital that we provide directly to venture capital and private equity backed technology-related companies is generally used for growth, and in select cases for acquisitions or recapitalizations.

Our portfolio is comprised of, and we anticipate that our portfolio will continue to be comprised of, investments in technology-related companies at various stages of their development. Consistent with regulatory requirements, we invest primarily in United States based companies and to a lesser extent in foreign companies. To date, our emphasis has been primarily on private companies following or in connection with their first institutional round of equity financing, which we refer to as emerging-growth companies, and private companies in later rounds of financing, which we refer to as expansion-stage companies. In 2007, we expect to increase our investment activity in established companies comprised of private companies in one of their final rounds of equity financing prior to a liquidity event or select publicly-traded companies that lack access to public capital or are sensitive to equity ownership dilution.

Edgar Filing: HERCULES TECHNOLOGY GROWTH CAPITAL INC - Form 497

We commenced investment operations in September 2004 and have built our investment portfolio on disciplined underwriting as well as on-going portfolio management. At March 31, 2007, we had outstanding

Table of Contents

structured mezzanine debt investments representing approximately \$322.7 million, warrant investments of \$10.5 million and equity investments of \$9.3 million for a total investment portfolio at fair value of \$342.5 million. In addition, at March 31, 2007, we had unfunded contractual commitments of \$74.7 million.

At March 31, 2007, the weighted average yield to maturity of our loan obligations was approximately 12.72%. Yields to maturity are computed using interest rates at inception of the loan and include amortization of loan facility fees, original issue discounts, commitment fees and market premiums or discounts over the expected life of the debt investments, weighted by their respective costs when averaged and are based on the assumption that all contractual loan commitments have been fully funded.

During the first quarter of 2007, we entered into approximately \$108.5 million of investment commitments and invested approximately \$80.2 million in 9 new portfolio companies and 11 existing portfolio companies. In addition, during the first quarter of 2007, two companies made early repayments of \$1.8 million, and we received paydowns of \$9.1 million on working capital lines of credit.

Corporate History and Offices

We are a Maryland corporation formed in December 2003 that began investment operations in September 2004. We are an internally managed, non-diversified, closed-end investment company that has elected to be treated as a business development company under the 1940 Act. As a business development company, we are required to meet various regulatory tests. A business development company is required to invest at least 70% of its total assets in private or thinly traded public U.S.-based companies. A business development company also must meet a coverage ratio of total net assets to total senior securities, which include all of our borrowings (including accrued interest payable) and any preferred stock we may issue in the future, of at least 200%.

From incorporation through December 31, 2005, we were taxed as a corporation under Subchapter C of the Code. We will elect to be treated for federal income tax purposes as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code with the filing of our federal corporate income tax return for 2006, which election, when actually made, will be effective as of January 1, 2006. To obtain and maintain the federal income tax benefits of RIC status, we must meet specified source-of-income and asset diversification requirements and distribute annually an amount equal to at least 90% of the sum of our net ordinary income and realized net short-term capital gains in excess of realized net long-term capital losses, if any, out of assets legally available for distribution. If we satisfy these requirements, we generally will not have to pay corporate-level taxes on any income that we distribute to our stockholders.

Our principal executive offices are located at 400 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 310, Palo Alto, California 94301 and our telephone number is (650) 289-3060. We also have additional offices in the Boston, Boulder, Chicago and Columbus areas. We maintain a website on the Internet at www.herculestech.com. Information contained in our website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus, and you should not consider that information as part of this prospectus. Our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and our current reports on Form 8-K, as well as any amendments to those reports, are available free of charge through our website as soon as reasonably practicable after we file them with, or furnish them to, the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Our Market Opportunity

Edgar Filing: HERCULES TECHNOLOGY GROWTH CAPITAL INC - Form 497

We believe that technology-related companies compete in one of the largest and most rapidly growing sectors of the U.S. economy and that continued growth is supported by ongoing innovation and performance improvements in technology products as well as the adoption of technology across virtually all industries in response to competitive pressures. We believe that an attractive market opportunity exists for a specialty finance company focused primarily on structured mezzanine investments in technology-related and life science companies for the following reasons:

Technology-related companies have generally been underserved by traditional lending sources;

Table of Contents

Unfulfilled demand exists for structured debt financing to technology-related companies;

Structured mezzanine debt products are less dilutive and complement equity financing from venture capital and private equity funds;
and

Valuations currently assigned to technology-related companies in private financing rounds, while increasing in recent years, still provide a good opportunity for attractive capital returns.

Technology-Related Companies Underserved by Traditional Lenders. We believe many viable technology-related companies backed by financial sponsors have been unable to obtain sufficient growth financing from traditional lenders, including financial services companies such as commercial banks and finance companies, in part because traditional lenders have continued to consolidate and have adopted a more risk-averse approach to lending that has resulted in tightened credit standards in recent years. More importantly, we believe traditional lenders are typically unable to underwrite the risk associated with financial sponsor-backed emerging-growth or expansion-stage companies effectively.

The unique cash flow characteristics of many technology-related companies include significant research and development expenditures and high projected revenue growth thus often making such companies difficult to evaluate from a credit perspective. In addition, the balance sheets of emerging-growth and expansion-stage companies often include a disproportionately large amount of intellectual property assets, which can be difficult to value. Finally, the speed of innovation in technology and rapid shifts in consumer demand and market share add to the difficulty in evaluating technology-related companies.

Due to the difficulties described above, we believe traditional lenders are generally refraining from entering the structured mezzanine debt marketplace for emerging-growth and expansion-stage companies, instead preferring the risk-reward profile of senior debt. Traditional lenders generally do not have flexible product offerings that meet the needs of technology-related companies. The financing products offered by traditional lenders typically impose on borrowers many restrictive covenants and conditions, including limiting cash outflows and requiring a significant depository relationship to facilitate rapid liquidation.

Unfulfilled Demand for Structured Debt Financing to Technology-Related Companies. Private debt capital in the form of structured debt financing from specialty finance companies continues to be an important source of funding for technology-related companies. We believe that the level of demand for structured debt financing to emerging-growth and expansion-stage companies is a function of the level of annual venture equity investment activity. In 2006, venture capital-backed companies received, in approximately 2,454 transactions, equity financing in an aggregate amount of approximately \$25.8 billion, representing an 8% increase over the preceding year, as reported by Dow Jones VentureOne. In addition, overall, the median round size in 2006 was \$7 million, up from \$6.5 million in 2005, and the highest annual median since 2000. For the second year in a row, equity investors are focusing more than a third of their investment activity on early-stage financings. Overall, seed- and first-round deals made up 36% of the deal flow in 2006, and about the same concentration of deal flow went to later-stage deals. As a result, we believe a range of \$20 billion to \$25 billion in annual equity investments to venture-backed companies will be sustainable for future years.

We believe that demand for structured debt financing is currently unfulfilled, in part because historically the largest debt capital providers to technology-related companies exited the market during 2001 while at the same time lending requirements of traditional lenders have become more stringent. We therefore believe this is an opportune time to be active in the structured lending market for technology-related companies.

Structured Mezzanine Debt Products Complement Equity Financing From Venture Capital and Private Equity Funds. We believe that technology-related companies and their financial sponsors will continue to view structured debt securities as an attractive source of capital because it augments the capital provided by venture capital and private equity funds. We believe that our structured mezzanine debt products

provide access to growth capital that otherwise may only be available through incremental investments by existing equity investors. As such, we provide portfolio companies and their financial sponsors with an opportunity to diversify their capital sources. Generally, we

Table of Contents

believe emerging-growth and expansion-stage companies target a portion of their capital to be debt in an attempt to achieve a higher valuation through internal growth. In addition, because financial sponsor-backed companies have recently been more mature prior to reaching a liquidity event, we believe our investments could provide the debt capital needed to grow or recapitalize during the extended period prior to liquidity events.

Lower Valuations for Private Technology-Related Companies. During the downturn in technology industries that began in 2000, the markets saw sharp and broad declines in valuations of venture capital and private equity-backed technology-related companies. According to Dow Jones VentureOne, median pre-money valuations for venture capital-backed companies in 2000 was \$25.0 million declining to a low of \$10.0 million in 2003. In addition, according to VentureOne, as of December 31, 2006 median pre-money valuations for venture capital-backed companies in 2006 was \$18.5 million compared to \$15.0 million in 2005. While pre-money valuations have been steadily increasing since 2003, we believe the valuations currently assigned to venture capital and private equity-backed technology-related companies in private financing rounds are still relatively low and should allow us to continue to build a portfolio of equity-related securities at attractive valuation levels.

Our Business Strategy

Our strategy to achieve our investment objective includes the following key elements:

Leverage the Experience and Industry Relationships of Our Management Team and Investment Professionals. We have assembled a team of experienced investment professionals with extensive experience as venture capitalists, commercial lenders, and originators of structured debt and equity investments in technology-related companies. Our investment professionals have, on average, more than 15 years of experience as equity investors in, and/or lenders to, technology-related companies. In addition, our team members have originated structured mezzanine investments in over 200 technology-related companies, representing over \$1.0 billion in investments, and have developed a network of industry contacts with investors and other participants within the venture capital and private equity communities. In addition, members of our management team also have operational, research and development and finance experience with technology-related companies. We have established contacts with leading venture capital and private equity fund sponsors, public and private companies, research institutions and other industry participants, which should enable us to identify and attract well-positioned prospective portfolio companies.

We concentrate our investing activities in industries in which our investment professionals have investment experience. We believe that our focus on financing technology-related companies will enable us to leverage our expertise in structuring prospective investments, to assess the value of both tangible and intangible assets, to evaluate the business prospects and operating characteristics of technology-related companies and to identify and originate potentially attractive investments with these types of companies.

Mitigate Risk of Principal Loss and Build a Portfolio of Equity-Related Securities. We expect that our investments have the potential to produce attractive risk adjusted returns through current income, in the form of interest and fee income, as well as capital appreciation from equity-related securities. We believe that we can mitigate the risk of loss on our debt investments through the combination of loan principal amortization, cash interest payments, relatively short maturities, security interests in the assets of our portfolio companies, covenants requiring prospective portfolio companies to have certain amounts of available cash at the time of our investment and the continued support from a venture capital or private equity firm at the time we make our investment.

In addition, historically our structured debt investments typically include warrants or other equity interests, giving us the potential to realize equity-like returns on a portion of our investment. In addition, we expect, in some cases, to receive the right to make additional equity investments in our portfolio companies in connection with future equity financing rounds. We believe these equity interests will create the

potential for long-term capital gains in connection with the future liquidity events of these technology-related companies.

Table of Contents

Provide Customized Financing Complementary to Financial Sponsors' Capital. We offer a broad range of investment structures and possess expertise and experience to effectively structure and price investments in technology-related companies. Unlike many of our competitors that only invest in companies that fit a specific set of investment parameters, we have the flexibility to structure our investments to suit the particular needs of our portfolio companies. We offer customized financing solutions ranging from senior debt to equity capital, with a focus on structured mezzanine debt.

We use our relationships in the financial sponsor community to originate investment opportunities. Because venture capital and private equity funds typically invest solely in the equity securities of their portfolio companies, we believe that our debt investments will be viewed as an attractive source of capital, both by the portfolio company and by the portfolio company's financial sponsor. In addition, we believe that many venture capital and private equity fund sponsors encourage their portfolio companies to use debt financing for a portion of their capital needs as a means of potentially enhancing equity returns, minimizing equity dilution and increasing valuations prior to a subsequent equity financing round or a liquidity event.

Invest at Various Stages of Development. We provide growth capital to technology-related companies at all stages of development, from emerging-growth companies, to expansion-stage companies and established companies. We believe that this provides us with a broader range of potential investment opportunities than those available to many of our competitors, who generally focus their investments on a particular stage in a company's development. Because of the flexible structure of our investments and the extensive experience of our investment professionals, we believe we are well positioned to take advantage of these investment opportunities at all stages of prospective portfolio companies' development.

Benefit from Our Efficient Organizational Structure. We believe that the perpetual nature of our corporate structure enables us to be a long-term partner for our portfolio companies in contrast to traditional mezzanine and investment funds, which typically have a limited life. In addition, because of our access to the equity markets, we believe that we may benefit from a lower cost of capital than that available to private investment funds. We are not subject to requirements to return invested capital to investors nor do we have a finite investment horizon. Capital providers that are subject to such limitations are often required to seek a liquidity event more quickly than they otherwise might, which can result in a lower overall return on an investment.

Deal Sourcing Through Our Proprietary Database. We have developed a proprietary and comprehensive structured query language-based (SQL) database system to track various aspects of our investment process including sourcing, originations, transaction monitoring and post-investment performance. As of December 31, 2006, our proprietary SQL-based database system included over 10,900 technology-related companies and over 3,000 venture capital private equity sponsors/investors, as well as various other industry contacts. This proprietary SQL system allows us to maintain, cultivate and grow our industry relationships while providing us with comprehensive details on companies in the technology-related industries and their financial sponsors.

Our Investments and Operations

We invest in debt securities and, to a lesser extent, equity securities, with a particular emphasis on structured mezzanine debt.

We generally seek to invest in companies that have been operating for at least six to 12 months prior to the date of our investment. We expect that such entities will, at the time of investment, be generating revenues or will have a business plan that anticipates generation of revenues within 24 to 36 months. Further, we anticipate that on the date of our investment we will obtain a lien on available assets, which may or may not include intellectual property, and these companies will have sufficient cash on their balance sheet to amortize their debt for at least six to 15 months following our investment. We generally require that a prospective portfolio company, in addition to having sufficient capital to support

leverage, demonstrate an operating plan capable of generating cash flows or raising the additional capital necessary to cover its operating expenses and service its debt.

Table of Contents

We expect that our investments will generally range from \$1.0 million to \$25.0 million. Our debt investments generally have an average initial principal balance of between \$3.0 million and \$7.0 million and have maturities of two to seven years, with an expected average term of three years. We typically structure our debt securities to provide for amortization of principal over the life of the loan, but may include an interest-only period, and our loans will be collateralized by a security interest in the borrower's assets, although we may not have the first claim on these assets and the assets may not include intellectual property. Our debt investments carry fixed or variable contractual interest rates typically ranging from 8% to 14%. In addition to the cash yields received on our loans, in some instances, certain loans may also include any of the following: end of term payments, exit fees, balloon payment fees or prepayment fees, which we may be required to include in income prior to receipt. We also generate revenue in the form of commitment and facility fees, and to a lesser extent, due diligence fees.

In addition, historically our structured mezzanine debt investments generally have had, and we expect they will continue to have, equity enhancement features, typically in the form of warrants or other equity-related securities designed to provide us with an opportunity for capital appreciation. The warrants typically will be immediately exercisable upon issuance and generally will remain exercisable for the lesser of seven years or three years after an initial public offering. The exercise prices for the warrants varies from nominal exercise prices to exercise prices that are at or above the current fair market value of the equity for which we receive warrants. We may structure warrants to provide minority rights provisions and put rights upon the occurrence of certain events. We generally target a total annualized return (including interest, fees and value of warrants) of 12% to 25% for our debt investments.

Typically, our debt and equity investments take one of the following forms:

Structured Mezzanine Debt. We seek to invest a majority of our assets in structured mezzanine debt of prospective portfolio companies. Traditional mezzanine debt is a layer of high-coupon financing between debt and equity that most commonly takes the form of subordinated debt coupled with warrants, combining the cash flow and risk characteristics of both senior debt and equity. However, our structured mezzanine investments may be the only debt capital on the balance sheet of our portfolio companies, and in many cases we have a first priority security interest in all of our portfolio company's assets (other than any tangible assets specifically financed with senior debt). Our structured mezzanine debt investments typically have maturities of between two and seven years, with full amortization for emerging-growth or expansion-stage companies and little or no amortization for select established companies. Our structured mezzanine debt investments carry a contractual interest rate between 8% and 14% and may include an additional end-of-term payment, are in an amount between \$3 million and \$25 million with an average initial principal balance of between \$3 million and \$7 million (although this investment size may vary proportionately as the size of our capital base changes) and have an average term of three years. In some cases we collateralize our investments by obtaining security interests in our portfolio companies' assets, which may include their intellectual property. In other cases we may prohibit a company from pledging or otherwise encumbering their intellectual property. We may structure our mezzanine debt investments with restrictive affirmative and negative covenants, default penalties, prepayment penalties, lien protection, equity calls, take control provisions and board observation rights.

Senior Debt. We seek to invest a limited portion of our assets in senior debt of prospective portfolio companies. Senior debt has a senior position with respect to a borrower's scheduled interest and principal payments and holds a first priority security interest in the assets pledged as collateral. Senior debt also may impose covenants on a borrower with regard to cash flows and changes in capital structure, among other items. Our senior debt investments carry a contractual interest rate between 8% and 12%, are in an amount between \$1 million and \$7 million with an average initial principal balance of \$3 million, and have an average term of under three years. We generally collateralize our investments by obtaining security interests in our portfolio companies' assets, which may include their intellectual property. In other cases we may obtain a negative pledge covering a company's intellectual property.

Table of Contents

Our senior loans, in certain instances, may be tied to the financing of specific assets. In connection with a senior debt investment, we may also provide the borrower with a working capital line-of-credit that will either carry an interest rate ranging from the prime rate to 12% or fixed or variable rates based on the prime rate or LIBOR plus a margin, generally maturing in one year, and will be secured by accounts receivable and / or inventory.

Equipment Loans. We intend to seek to invest a limited portion of our assets in equipment-based loans to early-stage prospective portfolio companies. Equipment-based loans are secured by a first priority security interest in the assets financed. We anticipate that these loans will generally be for amounts up to \$2.5 million, will carry a contractual interest rate between prime and prime plus 400 basis points, and have an average term between three and four years.

Equity-Related Securities. The equity-related securities we hold consist primarily of warrants or other equity interests generally obtained in connection with our structured mezzanine debt investments. In addition to the warrants received as a part of a structured mezzanine debt financing, we typically receive the right to make equity investments in a portfolio company in connection with the next equity financing round for that company. This right will provide us with the opportunity to further enhance our returns over time through opportunistic equity investments in our portfolio companies. Equity-related investments are typically in the form of preferred or common equity and may be structured with a dividend yield, providing us with a current return, and with customary anti-dilution protection and preemptive rights. In the future, we may achieve liquidity through a merger or acquisition of a portfolio company, a public offering of a portfolio company's stock or by exercising our right, if any, to require a portfolio company to buy back the equity-related securities we hold. We may also make direct equity investments into portfolio companies.

A comparison of the typical features of our various investment alternatives is set forth in the chart below.

	Senior Debt	Structured Mezzanine Debt	Equipment Loans	Equity Securities
Typical Structure	Term or revolving debt	Term debt with warrants	Term debt with warrants	Preferred stock or common stock
Investment Horizon	Usually 3 years	Long term, ranging from 2 to 7 years, with an average of 3 years	Ranging from 3 to 4 years	Long term
Ranking/Security	Senior/First lien	Senior or junior lien	Secured by underlying equipment	None/unsecured
Financial Covenants	Generally comprehensive	Less restrictive; Mostly financial; Maintenance-based	None	None
Risk Tolerance	Low	Medium	High	High
Coupon/Dividend	Cash pay Floating	Cash Pay fixed	Cash pay floating or	Payment-in kind in

Edgar Filing: HERCULES TECHNOLOGY GROWTH CAPITAL INC - Form 497

	or fixed rate	rate; Payment-in-kind	fixed rate	limited cases
		in limited cases		
Customization or Flexibility	Standard	More flexible	Standard	Flexible
Equity Dilution	None to low	Low	Low	High

Investment Criteria

We have identified several criteria that we believe are important in achieving our investment objective with respect to prospective portfolio companies. These criteria, while not inclusive, provide general guidelines for our investment decisions.

Table of Contents

Portfolio Composition. While we generally focus our investments in venture capital and private equity backed technology-related companies, we seek to diversify across various financial sponsors as well as across various stages of companies' development and various technology industry sub-sectors and geographies.

Continuing Support from One or More Financial Sponsors. We generally invest in companies in which one or more established financial sponsors have previously invested and continue to make a contribution to the management of the business. We believe that having established financial sponsors with meaningful commitments to the business is a key characteristic of a prospective portfolio company. In addition, we look for representatives of one or more financial sponsors to maintain seats on the Board of Directors of a prospective portfolio company as an indication of such commitment.

Company Stage of Development. While we invest in companies at various stages of development, we generally require that prospective portfolio companies be beyond the seed stage of development and generally have received or have commitments for their first institutional round of equity financing. We expect a prospective portfolio company to demonstrate its ability to commence revenue generation or increase its revenues and operating cash flow over time. The anticipated growth rate of a prospective portfolio company is a key factor in determining the value that we ascribe to any warrants or other equity securities that we may acquire in connection with an investment in debt securities.

Operating Plan. We generally require that a prospective portfolio company, in addition to having sufficient access to capital to support leverage, demonstrate an operating plan capable of generating cash flows or the ability to raise the additional capital necessary to cover its operating expenses and service its debt. Specifically, we require that a prospective portfolio company demonstrate at the time of our proposed investment that it has cash on its balance sheet, or is in the process of completing a financing so that it will have cash on its balance sheet, sufficient to support its operations for a minimum of 6 to 15 months.

Security Interest. In many instances we generally seek a first priority security interest in all of the portfolio company's tangible and intangible assets as collateral for our debt investment, subject in some cases to permitted exceptions. In other cases we may prohibit a company from pledging or otherwise encumbering their intellectual property. Although we do not intend to operate as an asset-based lender, the estimated liquidation value of the assets, if any, collateralizing the debt securities that we hold is an important factor in our credit analysis. We evaluate both tangible assets, such as accounts receivable, inventory and equipment, and intangible assets, such as intellectual property, customer lists, networks and databases.

Covenants. Our investments typically include one or more of the following covenants; cross-default and material adverse change provisions, require the portfolio company to provide periodic financial reports and operating metrics and will typically limit the portfolio company's ability to incur additional debt, sell assets, engage in transactions with affiliates and consummate an extraordinary transaction, such as a merger or recapitalization without our consent. In addition, we may require other performance or financial based covenants, as we deem appropriate.

Exit Strategy. Prior to making a debt investment that is accompanied by an equity-related security in a prospective portfolio company, we analyze the potential for that company to increase the liquidity of its equity through a future event that would enable us to realize appreciation in the value of our equity interest. Liquidity events may include an initial public offering, a private sale of our equity interest to a third party, a merger or an acquisition of the company or a purchase of our equity position by the company or one of its stockholders.

Table of Contents

Investment Process

We have organized our management team around the four key elements of our investment process:

Origination;

Underwriting;

Documentation; and

Loan and Compliance Administration.

Our investment process is summarized in the following chart:

Origination

The origination process for our investments includes sourcing, screening, preliminary due diligence and deal structuring and negotiation, all leading to an executed non-binding term sheet. Our investment origination team, which consists of 17 senior investment professionals is headed by our Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Henriquez, and is responsible for sourcing potential investment opportunities. The origination team uses their extensive relationships with various leading financial sponsors, management contacts within technology-related companies, trade sources, technology conferences and various publications to source prospective portfolio companies.

In addition, we have developed a proprietary and comprehensive SQL-based database system to track various aspects of our investment process including sourcing, originations, transaction monitoring and post-investment performance. As of March 31, 2007, our proprietary SQL-based database system included over 10,900 technology-related companies and over 3,000 venture capital private equity sponsors/investors, as well as various other industry contacts. This proprietary SQL system allows our origination team to maintain, cultivate and grow our industry relationships while providing our origination team with comprehensive details on companies in the technology-related industries and their financial sponsors.

Table of Contents

If a prospective portfolio company generally meets certain underwriting criteria, we perform preliminary due diligence, which may include high level company and technology assessments, evaluation of its financial sponsors' support, market analysis, competitive analysis, evaluation of select management, risk analysis and transaction size, pricing, return analysis and structure analysis. If the preliminary due diligence is satisfactory, and the origination team recommends moving forward, we then structure, negotiate and execute a non-binding term sheet with the potential portfolio company. Upon execution of a term sheet, the investment opportunity moves to the underwriting process to complete formal due diligence review and approval.

Underwriting

The underwriting review includes formal due diligence and approval of the proposed investment in the portfolio company.

Due Diligence. Our due diligence on a prospective investment is typically completed by two or more investment professionals which we define as the underwriting team. The underwriting team for a proposed investment consists of the deal sponsor who possesses specific industry knowledge and is responsible for originating and managing the transaction, other investment professional(s) who perform due diligence, credit and corporate financial analyses and, as needed, our Chief Legal Officer. To ensure consistent underwriting, we generally use our standardized due diligence methodologies, which include due diligence on financial performance and credit risk as well as an analysis of the operations, accounting policies and the legal and applicable regulatory framework of a prospective portfolio company. The members of the underwriting team work together to conduct due diligence and understand the relationships among the prospective portfolio company's business plan, operations and financial performance.

As part of our evaluation of a proposed investment, the underwriting team prepares an investment memorandum for presentation to the investment committee. In preparing the investment memorandum, the underwriting team typically meets with select key management of the company and select financial sponsors and assembles information necessary to the investment decision. If and when appropriate, the investment professionals may also contact industry experts and customers, vendors or, in some cases, competitors of the company.

Approval Process. The sponsoring managing director or principal presents the investment memorandum to our investment committee for consideration. The unanimous approval of our investment committee is required before we proceed with any investment. The members of our investment committee are our Chief Executive Officer, our Chief Legal Officer, our Chief Credit Officer and our Chief Financial Officer. The investment committee generally meets weekly and more frequently on an as-needed basis. Our investment committee process is generally the same at the SBIC except that our two Senior Managing Directors are also members of the committee. The Senior Managing Directors abstain from voting with respect to investments they originate.

Documentation

Our documentation group, headed by our Chief Legal Officer, administers the front-end documentation process for our loans. This group is responsible for documenting the term sheet approved by the investment committee to memorialize the transaction with a portfolio company. This group negotiates loan documentation and, subject to the approval of the Chief Legal Officer, final documents are prepared for execution by all parties. The documentation group generally uses the services of external law firms to complete the necessary documentation.

Loan and Compliance Administration

Our loan and compliance administration group, headed by our Chief Financial Officer, administers loans and tracks covenant compliance on our investments and oversees periodic reviews of our critical functions to ensure adherence with our internal policies and procedures. After funding of a loan in accordance with the investment committee's approval, the loan is recorded in our SQL-based database system. The loan and

Table of Contents

compliance administration group is also responsible for ensuring timely interest and principal payments and collateral management and advises the investment committee on the financial performance and trends of each portfolio company, including any covenant violations that occur, to aid us in assessing the appropriate course of action for each portfolio company and evaluating overall portfolio quality. In addition, the loan and compliance administration group advises the Valuation Committee of the board regarding the credit and investment grading for each portfolio company as well as changes in the value of collateral that may occur.

The loan and compliance administration group monitors our portfolio companies in order to determine whether the companies are meeting our financing criteria and their respective business plans and also monitors the financial trends of each portfolio company from its monthly or quarterly financial statements to assess the appropriate course of action for each company and to evaluate overall portfolio quality. In addition, our management team closely monitors the status and performance of each individual company through our SQL-based database system and periodic contact with our portfolio companies' management teams and their respective financial sponsors.

Credit and Investment Grading System. Our loan and compliance administration group uses an investment grading system to characterize and monitor our outstanding loans. Our loan and compliance administration group monitors and, when appropriate, recommends changes to investment grading. Our investment committee reviews the recommendations and/or changes to the investment grading, which are submitted on a quarterly basis to the Valuation Committee and our Board of Directors for approval. We use the following investment grading system approved by our Board of Directors:

- Grade 1. Loans involve the least amount of risk in our portfolio. The borrower is performing above expectations, and the trends and risk profile is generally favorable.
- Grade 2. The borrower is performing as expected and the risk profile is neutral to favorable. All new loans are initially graded 2.
- Grade 3. The borrower may be performing below expectations, and the loan's risk has increased materially since origination. We increase procedures to monitor a borrower that may have limited amounts of cash remaining on the balance sheet, is approaching its next equity capital raise within the next three months to a year, or if the estimated fair value of the enterprise may be lower than when the loan was originated. We will generally lower the loan grade to a level 3 even if the company is performing in accordance to plan as it approaches the need to raise additional cash to fund its operations. Once the borrower closes its new equity capital raise, we may increase the loan grade back to grade 2.
- Grade 4. The borrower is performing materially below expectations, and the loan risk has substantially increased since origination. Loans graded 4 may experience some partial loss or full return of principal but are expected to realize some loss of interest which is not anticipated to be repaid in full, which, to the extent not already reflected, may require the fair value of the loan to be reduced to the amount we anticipate will be recovered. Grade 4 investments are closely monitored.
- Grade 5. The borrower is in workout, materially performing below expectations and a significant risk of principal loss is probable. Loans graded 5 will experience some partial principal loss or full loss of remaining principal outstanding is expected. Grade 5 loans will require the fair value of the loans be reduced to the amount, if any, we anticipate will be recovered.

At March 31, 2007, our investments had a weighted average investment grading of 2.16.

Table of Contents

Managerial Assistance

As a business development company, we offer, and provide upon request, managerial assistance to our portfolio companies. This assistance could involve, among other things, monitoring the operations of our portfolio companies, participating in board and management meetings, consulting with and advising officers of portfolio companies and providing other organizational and financial guidance. We may receive fees for these services.

Asset Management

We may engage in the asset management business by providing investment advisory services to externally managed funds that may be formed in the future. Such funds may focus on our lower yielding assets, such as senior debt, equipment based only financing or equity only funding. We may contribute assets currently in our portfolio to the extent that our management and Board of Directors deems it appropriate. We may, from time to time, serve as the investment manager of such funds and may receive management and other fees for such services. Such funds may have overlapping investment objectives and may invest in asset classes similar to those targeted by us.

Competition

Our primary competitors provide financing to prospective portfolio companies and include non-bank financial institutions, federally or state chartered banks, venture debt funds, financial institutions, venture capital funds, private equity funds, investment funds and investment banks. Many of these entities have greater financial and managerial resources than we have, and the 1940 Act imposes certain regulatory restrictions on us as a business development company to which many of our competitors are not subject. However, we believe that few of our competitors possess the expertise to properly structure and price debt investments to venture capital and private equity backed technology-related companies. We believe that our specialization in financing technology-related companies will enable us to assess the value of intellectual property assets, evaluate the business prospects and operating characteristics of prospective portfolio companies and, as a result, identify investment opportunities that produce attractive risk-adjusted returns. For additional information concerning the competitive risks we face, see **Risk Factors** **Risks Related to our Business and Structure**. We operate in a highly competitive market for investment opportunities, and we may not be able to compete effectively.

Legal Proceedings

From time to time, we may be party to certain legal proceedings incidental to the normal course of our business including the enforcement of our rights under contracts with our portfolio companies. While the outcome of these legal proceedings cannot at this time be predicted with certainty, we do not expect that these proceedings will have a material effect upon our financial condition or results of operations.

Corporate Structure

Edgar Filing: HERCULES TECHNOLOGY GROWTH CAPITAL INC - Form 497

We are a Maryland corporation and an internally-managed, non-diversified closed-end investment company that has elected to be regulated as a business development company under the 1940 Act. Hercules Technology II, L.P. (HTII), our wholly-owned subsidiary, is licensed under the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 as a Small Business Investment Company. Hercules Technology SBIC Management, LLC (HTM), another wholly-owned subsidiary, functions as the general partner of our subsidiary HTII. Hercules Funding I LLC, our wholly owned subsidiary, and Hercules Funding Trust I, our affiliated statutory trust, function as vehicles to collateralize loans under our securitized credit facility with Citigroup Global Markets Realty Corp. In December 2006, we established Hydra Management LLC and Hydra Management Co., Inc. an investment manager and an investment management company, respectively.

Our principal executive offices are located at 400 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 310, Palo Alto, California 94301. We also have offices in Boston, Massachusetts, Boulder, Colorado, Chicago, Illinois, Costa Mesa, California and Columbus, Ohio.

Table of Contents

Employees

As of March 31, 2007, we had 29 employees, including 17 investment and portfolio management professionals all of whom have extensive prior experience working on financing transactions for technology-related companies. We intend to expand our management team, financial analyst group and operational personnel to support our growing portfolio of companies. We may also hire additional managing directors if our business indicates the need to expand the team to take advantage of growing market opportunities.

Table of Contents**PORTFOLIO COMPANIES**

The following tables set forth certain information as of March 31, 2007 regarding each portfolio company in which we had a debt or equity investment. The general terms of our loans and other investments are described in Business Our Investments. We offer to make available significant managerial assistance to our portfolio companies. In addition, we may receive rights to observe the Board of Directors meetings of our portfolio companies.

Portfolio Company	Industry	Type of Investment⁽¹⁾	Percentage of Class Held on a Fully Diluted Basis⁽⁶⁾⁽⁷⁾	Cost⁽²⁾	Value⁽³⁾
Accelaron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (1.57%)* ⁽⁴⁾ 24 Emily Street Cambridge, MA 02139	Drug Discovery	Senior Debt Matures June 2009 Interest rate 10.25%		\$ 3,793,731	\$ 3,793,731
		Preferred Stock Warrants	1.67%	69,106	413,349
		Preferred Stock Warrants	0.65%	34,996	32,709
Accelaron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (0.41%)		Preferred Series A Stock	1.71%	1,000,000	1,111,112
Total Accelaron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.				4,897,833	5,350,901
Aveo Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (5.57%) ⁽⁴⁾ 75 Sidney Street 4th Floor Cambridge, MA 02139	Drug Discovery	Senior Debt Matures September 2009 Interest rate 10.75%		14,863,247	14,863,247
		Preferred Stock Warrants	10.18%	144,056	107,840
		Preferred Stock Warrants	3.39%	46,288	41,439
Total Aveo Pharmaceuticals, Inc.				15,053,591	15,012,526
Elixir Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (3.71%) One Kendall Square Building 1000 5th Floor Cambridge, MA 02139	Drug Discovery	Senior Debt Matures June 2010 Interest rate Prime + 2.45%		9,868,289	9,868,289
		Preferred Stock Warrants	1.47%	149,510	139,244
Total Elixir Pharmaceuticals, Inc.				10,017,799	10,007,533
EpiCept Corporation (3.75%) 777 Old Saw Mill River Road Tarrytown, NY 10591	Drug Discovery	Senior Debt Matures August 2009 Interest rate 11.70%		9,377,181	9,377,181
		Common Stock Warrants	3.25%	794,633	740,783
Total EpiCept Corporation				10,171,814	10,117,964
Memory Pharmaceuticals Corp (2.13%) 100 Phillips Parkway Montvale, NJ 07645	Drug Discovery	Senior Debt Matures February 2011 Interest rate 11.45%		4,966,633	4,966,633
		Common Stock Warrants	0.83%	1,057,399	786,899
Total Memory Pharmaceuticals Corp				6,024,032	5,753,532
Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (2.28%)* ⁽⁴⁾ 101 Binney Street	Drug Discovery	Convertible Senior Debt Matures October 2008		5,449,928	5,736,928

Edgar Filing: HERCULES TECHNOLOGY GROWTH CAPITAL INC - Form 497

Cambridge, MA 02142		Interest rate 11.15%			
		Preferred Stock Warrants	3.60%	155,456	398,921
Total Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc.				5,605,384	6,135,849
Paratek Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (2.12%)(4)	Drug Discovery	Senior Debt			
75 Kneeland Street		Matures June 2008			
Boston, MA 02111		Interest rate 11.10%		5,622,203	5,622,203
		Preferred Stock Warrants	18.53%	137,396	101,151
Total Paratek Pharmaceuticals, Inc.				5,759,599	5,723,354
Portola Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (5.57%)	Drug Discovery	Senior Debt			
270 E Grand Ave South		Matures September 2010			
San Francisco, CA 94080		Interest rate Prime + 1.75%		14,865,809	14,865,809
		Preferred Stock Warrants	1.43%	151,557	139,614
Total Portola Pharmaceuticals, Inc.				15,017,366	15,005,423
Sirtris Pharmaceuticals, Inc (3.80%)(4)	Drug Discovery	Senior Debt			
790 Memorial Drive		Matures April 2011			
Cambridge, MA 02139		Interest rate 10.60%		9,928,937	9,928,937
		Preferred Stock Warrants	2.22%	88,829	316,536
Sirtris Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (0.19%)		Preferred Stock (C-1)	1.30%	500,000	500,000
Total Sirtris Pharmaceuticals, Inc.				10,517,766	10,745,473

Table of Contents

Portfolio Company	Industry	Type of Investment⁽¹⁾	Percentage of Class Held on a Fully Diluted Basis⁽⁶⁾⁽⁷⁾	Cost⁽²⁾	Value⁽³⁾
Total Drug Discovery (31.10%)				\$ 83,065,184	\$ 83,852,555
IKANO Communications, Inc. (8.38%) ⁽⁴⁾ 265 East 100 South, Ste 245 Salt Lake City, UT 84111	Communications & Networking	Senior Debt Matures March 2011 Interest rate 11.00%		22,500,000	22,500,000
		Preferred Stock Warrants	0.04%	45,460	30,260
		Preferred Stock Warrants	0.07%	72,344	50,900
Total IKANO Communications, Inc.				22,617,804	22,581,160
Interwise, Inc. (0.72%) ⁽⁴⁾ 25 First Street Suite 412 Cambridge, MA 02141	Communications & Networking	Senior Debt Matures August 2008 Interest rate 17.50%		1,701,456	1,701,456
		Preferred Stock Warrants	7.84%	268,401	237,599
Total Interwise, Inc.				1,969,857	1,939,055
Pathfire, Inc. (1.74%) ⁽⁴⁾ 245 Hembree Park Drive Roswell, GA 30076	Communications & Networking	Senior Debt Matures December 2008 Interest rate Prime + 3.65%		4,678,068	4,678,068
		Preferred Stock Warrants	4.74%	63,276	13,390
Total Pathfire, Inc.				4,741,344	4,691,458
Ping Identity Corporation (0.92%) ⁽⁴⁾ 1099 18th Street Suite 2950 Denver, CO 80202	Communications & Networking	Senior Debt Matures June 2009 Interest rate 11.50%		2,309,476	2,309,476
		Preferred Stock Warrants	3.35%	51,801	157,848
Total Ping Identity Corporation				2,361,277	2,467,324
Rivulet Communications, Inc. (1.30%) ⁽⁴⁾ 75 Rochester Avenue Portsmouth, NH 03801	Communications & Networking	Senior Debt Matures September 2009 Interest rate 10.60%		3,463,969	3,463,969
		Preferred Stock Warrants	2.59%	50,710	37,876
Rivulet Communications, Inc. (0.09%)		Preferred Series A Stock	2.31%	250,000	250,000
Total Rivulet Communications, Inc.				3,764,679	3,751,845
Simpler Networks Corp. (1.98%) ⁽⁴⁾ 90 Washington Valley Road Bedminster, NJ 07921	Communications & Networking	Senior Debt Matures July 2009 Interest rate 11.75%		4,606,291	4,606,291
		Preferred Stock Warrants	5.90%	160,241	733,919
Simpler Networks Corp. (0.19%)		Preferred Series C Stock	1.96%	500,000	500,000
Total Simpler Networks Corp.				5,266,532	5,840,210
Wireless Channels, Inc (4.63%) ⁽⁴⁾ 7101 S. Fulton St. #200 Centennial, CO 80112	Communications & Networking	Senior Debt Matures April 2010 Interest rate 9.25%		2,348,971	2,348,971
		Subordinated Debt			

Edgar Filing: HERCULES TECHNOLOGY GROWTH CAPITAL INC - Form 497

Matures April 2010

		Interest rate Prime + 4.25%		10,000,000	10,000,000
		Preferred Series A Stock	4.47%	155,139	158,872
Total Wireless Channels, Inc.				12,504,110	12,507,843
Total Communications & Networking (19.95%)				53,225,603	53,778,895
Atrenta, Inc. (1.82%)(4)	Software	Senior Debt			
2077 Gateway Place Suite 300		Matures June 2009			
San Jose, CA 95110		Interest rate 11.50%		4,643,687	4,643,687
		Preferred Stock Warrants	5.40%	102,396	194,647
		Preferred Stock Warrants	1.77%	33,760	63,869
Atrenta, Inc. (0.09%)		Preferred Series C Stock	1.56%	250,000	250,000
Total Atrenta, Inc.				5,029,843	5,152,203
Blurb, Inc. (0.09%)	Software	Senior Debt			
580 California St Suite 300					
San Francisco, CA 94104		Matures December 2009 Interest rate 9.55%		238,530	238,530
		Preferred Stock Warrants	0.62%	12,904	12,034
Total Blurb, Inc.				251,434	250,564
Compete, Inc. (1.31%)(4)	Software	Senior Debt			
4 Copley Place Suite 700		Matures March 2009			
Boston, MA		Interest rate Prime + 3.50%		3,490,402	3,490,402
		Preferred Stock Warrants	2.67%	62,067	46,064

Table of Contents

Portfolio Company	Industry	Type of Investment⁽¹⁾	Percentage of Class Held on a Fully Diluted Basis⁽⁶⁾⁽⁷⁾	Cost⁽²⁾	Value⁽³⁾
Total Complete, Inc.				\$ 3,552,469	\$ 3,536,466
Forescout Technologies, Inc. (1.11%) 10001 De Anza Blvd., Suite 220 Cupertino, CA 95014	Software	Senior Debt Matures August 2009 Interest rate 11.15% Revolving Line of Credit Matures August 2007		2,455,217	2,455,217
		Interest rate Prime + 1.49% Preferred Stock Warrants	3.06%	500,000 55,593	500,000 48,020
Total Forescout Technologies, Inc.				3,010,810	3,003,237
GameLogic, Inc. (1.11%) ⁽⁴⁾ 139 Main Street 5th Floor Boston, MA 02142	Software	Senior Debt Matures December 2009 Interest rate Prime + 4.125% Preferred Stock Warrants	1.54%	2,961,173 52,604	2,961,173 39,291
Total GameLogic, Inc.				3,013,777	3,000,464
Gomez, Inc. (0.35%) ⁽⁴⁾ 610 Lincoln Street Waltham, MA 02451	Software	Senior Debt Matures December 2007 Interest rate 12.25% Preferred Stock Warrants	4.35%	938,525 35,000	938,525 14,466
Total Gomez, Inc.				973,525	952,991
HighRoads, Inc. (0.65%) ⁽⁴⁾ 150 Presidential Way Woburn, MA 01801	Software	Senior Debt Matures February 2009 Interest rate 11.65% Preferred Stock Warrants	3.18%	1,723,912 44,466	1,723,912 33,159
Total HighRoads, Inc.				1,768,378	1,757,071
Intelliden, Inc. (1.11%) 90 South Cascade Avenue Colorado Springs, CO 80903	Software	Senior Debt Matures February 2010 Interest rate 13.20% Preferred Stock Warrants	0.94%	2,985,453 17,542	2,985,453 15,796
Total Intelliden, Inc.				3,002,995	3,001,249
Inxight Software, Inc. (1.39%) ⁽⁴⁾ 500 Macara Avenue Sunnyvale, CA 94085	Software	Senior Debt Matures February 2008 Interest rate 10.00% Preferred Stock Warrants	1.20%	3,729,819 55,963	3,729,819 24,430
Total Inxight Software, Inc.				3,785,782	3,754,249
Oatsystems, Inc. (2.17%) ⁽⁴⁾ 265 Winter St. Waltham, MA 02451	Software	Senior Debt Matures September 2009 Interest rate 11.00% Preferred Stock Warrants	5.45%	5,771,694 67,484	5,771,694 50,437
Total Oatsystems, Inc.				5,839,178	5,822,131

Edgar Filing: HERCULES TECHNOLOGY GROWTH CAPITAL INC - Form 497

Proficiency, Inc. (1.51%) ⁽⁵⁾ 880 Winter Street, Suite 320 Waltham, MA 02415	Software	Senior Debt Matures July 2008 Interest rate 12.00% Preferred Stock Warrants			
				3,960,318	3,960,318
			9.27%	96,370	106,725
Total Proficiency, Inc.				4,056,688	4,067,043
PSS Systems, Inc. (0.13%) 2471 East Bayshore Road, Suite 600 Palo Alto, CA 94303	Software	Senior Debt Matures March 2010 Interest rate 10.74% Preferred Stock Warrants			
				300,217	300,217
			1.48%	51,205	53,257
Total PSS Systems, Inc.				351,422	353,474
Savvion, Inc. (1.84%) ⁽⁴⁾ 5104 Old Ironsides Drive, Suite 205 Santa Clara, CA 95054	Software	Senior Debt Matures March 2009 Interest rate Prime + 3.45% Revolving Line of Credit Matures March 2007 Interest rate Prime + 2.00% Preferred Stock Warrants			
				1,899,414	1,899,414
				3,000,000	3,000,000
			5.59%	52,135	39,070
Total Savvion, Inc.				4,951,549	4,938,484
Sportvision, Inc. (0.01%) 4619 N. Ravenswood Chicago, IL 60640	Software	Preferred Stock Warrants			
				39,339	26,992
Total Sportvision, Inc.				39,339	26,992

Table of Contents

Portfolio Company	Industry	Type of Investment⁽¹⁾	Percentage of Class Held on a Fully Diluted Basis⁽⁶⁾⁽⁷⁾	Cost⁽²⁾	Value⁽³⁾
Talisma Corp. (0.55%)⁽⁴⁾					
10900 N.E. 4th Street, Suite 1510 Bellevue, WA 98004-5841	Software	Subordinated Debt Matures December 2007 Interest rate 11.25% Preferred Stock Warrants	1.47%	\$ 1,451,072 49,000	\$ 1,451,072 19,430
Total Talisma Corp.				1,500,072	1,470,502
Total Software (15.24%)				41,127,261	41,087,120
Agami Systems, Inc. (2.60%)⁽⁴⁾					
1269 Innsbruck Drive Sunnyvale, CA 94089	Electronics & Computer Hardware	Senior Debt Matures August 2009 Interest rate 11.00% Preferred Stock Warrants	1.88%	6,931,616 85,601	6,931,616 74,782
Total Agami Systems, Inc.				7,017,217	7,006,398
Cornice, Inc. (0.99%)⁽⁴⁾					
1951 S. Fordham Street Suite 105 Longmont, CO 80503	Electronics & Computer Hardware	Senior Debt Matures November 2008 Interest rate Prime + 4.50% Preferred Stock Warrants Preferred Stock Warrants Preferred Stock Warrants	3.15% 9.08% 12.11%	2,680,376 101,597 35,353 135,403	2,680,376
Total Cornice, Inc.				2,952,729	2,680,376
Luminus Devices, Inc. (5.41%)⁽⁴⁾					
175 New Boston Street Suite A Woburn, MA 01801	Electronics & Computer Hardware	Senior Debt Matures August 2009 Interest rate 12.50% Preferred Stock Warrants	0.43%	14,346,470 183,290	14,346,470 141,418