

RR Donnelley & Sons Co
Form 424B5
January 14, 2009
Table of Contents

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
Registration No. 333-139756

The information in this Preliminary Prospectus Supplement is not complete and may be changed. This Preliminary Prospectus Supplement and the accompanying Prospectus are not an offer to sell these securities and we are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION

PRELIMINARY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT, DATED JANUARY 14, 2009

Prospectus Supplement

January , 2009

(To Prospectus dated January 3, 2007)

\$

R.R. DONNELLEY & SONS COMPANY

% Notes due 2019

RR Donnelley is offering \$ aggregate principal amount of its % notes due 2019. Interest on the notes will be paid semi-annually in arrears on and of each year, beginning on , 2009. The notes will mature on , 2019. The interest rate on the notes may be adjusted under the circumstances described in this prospectus supplement under Description of the Notes Interest Rate Adjustment. We may redeem the notes at any time and from time to time, in whole or in part, at a redemption price as described in this prospectus supplement in the section entitled Description of the Notes Optional Redemption.

The notes will be our general unsecured senior obligations and will rank equally with all of our other unsecured senior indebtedness from time to time outstanding.

Investing in the notes involves risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page S-10 of this prospectus supplement.

Per Note Total

Edgar Filing: RR Donnelley & Sons Co - Form 424B5

Public offering price(1)	%	\$
Underwriting discount	%	\$
Proceeds to R.R. Donnelley, before expenses(1)	%	\$

(1) Plus accrued interest, if any, from January , 2009, if settlement occurs after that date.

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 accurate or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The underwriters expect to deliver the notes in book-entry form only through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company for the accounts of its participants, including Clearstream Banking, societe anonyme, and Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V., as operator of the Euroclear System, against payment in New York, New York on or about January , 2009.

Joint Book-Running Managers

Banc of America Securities LLC

Citi

J.P. Morgan

Table of Contents

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is accurate as of the date on the front of this prospectus supplement only. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

In this prospectus supplement, unless the context indicates otherwise, the terms RR Donnelley , we , us , Company and our refer to R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company and its subsidiaries.

Our name, logo and other trademarks mentioned in this prospectus supplement are the property of their respective owners.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prospectus Supplement

<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	S-3
<u>Forward-Looking Statements</u>	S-5
<u>Summary</u>	S-7
<u>Risk Factors</u>	S-10
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	S-11
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	S-12
<u>Capitalization</u>	S-12
<u>Description of the Notes</u>	S-13
<u>Book-Entry; Delivery and Form</u>	S-26
<u>United States Federal Income Taxation</u>	S-29
<u>Underwriting</u>	S-33
<u>Validity of the Notes</u>	S-35
<u>Experts</u>	S-35

Prospectus

<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	1
<u>Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference</u>	1
<u>The Company</u>	2
<u>Experts</u>	2

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

Available Information

RR Donnelley is subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or the Exchange Act, and in accordance therewith files annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, on a regular basis. You may read and copy this information or obtain copies of this information by mail from the SEC's public reference room, 100 F Street N.E., Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549, at prescribed rates. Further information on the operation of the SEC's public reference room in Washington, D.C. can be obtained by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330.

The SEC also maintains a web site that contains reports, proxy statements and other information about issuers, like RR Donnelley, who file electronically with the SEC. The address of that site is <http://www.sec.gov>. RR Donnelley's SEC filings are also available from our web site at <http://www.rrdonnelley.com>. Information on our web site is not part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-3 relating to the securities covered by this prospectus supplement. The accompanying prospectus is part of the registration statement and does not contain all of the information in the registration statement. Whenever a reference is made in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus to a contract or other document of ours, please be aware that the reference is only a summary and that you should refer to the exhibits that are part of the registration statement for a copy of the contract or other document. You may review a copy of the registration statement at the SEC's public reference room in Washington, D.C., as well as through the SEC's web site.

Documents Incorporated by Reference

We have incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus certain documents that we file with the SEC. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. This information incorporated by reference is a part of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, unless we provide you with different information in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus or the information is modified or superseded by a subsequently filed document. Any information referred to in this way is considered part of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus from the date we file that document.

Any reports filed by us pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act on or after the date of this prospectus supplement and before the completion of the offering of the securities will be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and will automatically update, where applicable, and supersede any information contained in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus incorporates the documents listed below that we have previously filed with the SEC (other than, in each case, documents or information deemed to have been furnished and not filed in accordance with SEC rules). They contain important information about us, our business and our financial condition.

RR Donnelley SEC Filings	Period or Date Filed
Annual Report on Form 10-K	Year ended December 31, 2007, as amended by the Form 10-K/As filed on May 6, 2008 (Film Nos. 08807189 and 08803893)
Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q	Quarters ended March 31, 2008, June 30, 2008 and September 30, 2008
Proxy Statement	Schedule 14A filed April 18, 2008 for Annual Meeting held on May 28, 2008
Current Reports on Form 8-K	January 16, 2008, February 25, 2008, July 14, 2008, November 4, 2008, December 23, 2008 and January 13, 2009

Table of Contents

You can obtain any of the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus from us or from the SEC through the SEC's web site at the address described above. Documents incorporated by reference are available from us without charge, excluding any exhibits to those documents unless we specifically incorporated by reference the exhibit in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. You can obtain these documents from us by requesting them in writing or by telephone at the following address or number:

R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company

111 South Wacker Drive

Chicago, Illinois 60606

Telephone: (866) 425-8272

S-4

Table of Contents

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and portions of the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein contain statements relating to our future results (including certain anticipated, believed, expected and estimated results) and our outlook (including statements as to acquisitions being accretive, continued improvement in our cost structure and achievement of revenue growth from the cross-selling initiative) that are forward-looking statements as defined in the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements and any such forward-looking statements are qualified in their entirety by reference to the following cautionary statements. All forward-looking statements speak only as of the date hereof or the date of any document that may be incorporated by reference herein, are based on current expectations and involve a number of assumptions, risks and uncertainties that could cause the actual results to differ materially from such forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause such material differences include, without limitation, the following:

successful execution and integration of acquisitions and the performance of our operations following the acquisitions of Banta, Perry Judd's, Von Hoffmann, Cardinal Brands and Pro Line and successful negotiation of future acquisitions, and our ability to integrate operations successfully and achieve enhanced earnings or effect cost savings;

the ability to implement comprehensive plans for the integration of sales forces, cost containment, asset rationalization, system integration and other key strategies;

the ability to divest non-core businesses;

future growth rates in our core businesses;

competitive pressures in all markets in which we operate;

the volatility and disruption of the capital and credit markets, and adverse changes in the global economy;

our ability to access unsecured debt in the capital markets and our beliefs regarding the reliability of the participants to our contractual lending and insurance agreements;

factors that affect customer demand, including changes in postal rates and postal regulations, changes in the capital markets that affect demand for financial printing, changes in advertising markets, the rate of migration from paper-based forms to digital formats, customers' budgetary constraints, and customers' changes in short-range and long-range plans;

the ability to gain customer acceptance of our new products and technologies;

the ability to secure and defend intellectual property rights and, when appropriate, license required technology;

customer expectations and financial strength;

Edgar Filing: RR Donnelley & Sons Co - Form 424B5

performance issues with key suppliers;

changes in the availability or costs of key materials (such as ink, paper and fuel);

changes in ratings of our debt securities as a result of our financial performance, financial community and rating agency perceptions of our business, operations, financial condition and the industry in which we operate;

the ability to generate cash flow or obtain financing to fund growth;

the effect of inflation, changes in currency exchange rates and changes in interest rates;

the effect of changes in laws and regulations, including changes in accounting standards, trade, tax, environmental compliance (including with respect to the emission of greenhouse gases and other air pollution controls), health and welfare benefits, price controls and other regulatory matters and the cost, which could be substantial, of complying with these laws and regulations;

S-5

Table of Contents

contingencies related to actual or alleged environmental contamination;

the retention of existing, and continued attraction of additional, customers and key employees;

the effect of a material breach of security of any of our systems;

the effect of labor disruptions or labor shortages;

the effect of economic and political conditions on a regional, national or international basis;

the possibility of future terrorist activities or the possibility of a future escalation of hostilities in the Middle East or elsewhere;

the possibility of a regional or global health pandemic outbreak;

adverse outcomes of pending and threatened litigation; and

other risks and uncertainties detailed from time to time in our filings with the SEC, including under **Risk Factors** in our Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Consequently, you should consider these forward-looking statements only as our current plans, estimates and beliefs. We do not undertake and specifically decline any obligation to publicly release the results of any revisions to these forward-looking statements that may be made to reflect future events or circumstances after the date of such statements or to reflect the occurrence of anticipated or unanticipated events. We undertake no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statement in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or any document incorporated by reference to reflect any new events or any change in conditions or circumstances. Even if these plans, estimates or beliefs change because of future events or circumstances after the date of these statements, or because anticipated or unanticipated events occur, we decline and cannot be required to accept an obligation to publicly release the results of revisions to these forward-looking statements.

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

This summary is not complete and does not contain all of the information that you should consider before buying the notes in this offering. You should read carefully the entire prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including in particular the section entitled Risk Factors beginning on page S-10 of this prospectus supplement and the more detailed information and financial statements and related notes appearing elsewhere or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, before making any investment decision.

Our Company

We are the largest integrated provider of print and print related services in North America and the world, with an established and diverse Fortune 500 customer base, a broad geographic production and distribution network and a diversified product and service offering. For the year ended December 31, 2007, we had net sales of \$11.6 billion and income from continuing operations of \$315.1 million. For the nine months ended September 30, 2008, we had net sales of \$8.8 billion and net earnings from continuing operations of \$495.3 million.

We are the world's premier full-service provider of print and related services, including business process outsourcing. Founded more than 140 years ago, we provide products and solutions in commercial printing, direct mail, financial printing, print fulfillment, labels, forms, logistics, call centers, transactional print-and-mail, print management, online services, digital photography, color services, and content and database management to customers in the publishing, healthcare, advertising, retail, technology, financial services and many other industries. The largest companies in the world and others rely on our scale, scope and insight through a comprehensive range of online tools, variable printing services and market-specific solutions.

Our common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange and the Chicago Stock Exchange. Our executive offices are located at 111 South Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606.

Recent Developments

Revised 2008 Non-GAAP Guidance

On January 9, 2009, we announced revised 2008 non-GAAP earnings per diluted share from continuing operations guidance of between \$2.80 and \$2.90, compared to previous guidance of \$3.08 to \$3.11. The guidance is based on expected full-year revenue of approximately \$11.5 billion and an average fully diluted share base of approximately 211 million for the year. Full-year capital expenditures are expected to be approximately \$335.0 million. At the end of 2008, cash and equivalents are expected to be approximately \$315.0 million and additional available liquidity under our \$2.0 billion committed revolving credit facility is expected to be approximately \$1.5 billion. The implied fourth-quarter 2008 expected results are non-GAAP earnings per diluted share from continuing operations of between \$0.51 and \$0.61 on an average fully diluted share base of approximately 205 million and revenue of approximately \$2.7 billion.

For the fourth quarter and full year of 2008, non-GAAP net earnings per diluted share from continuing operations exclude restructuring and impairment charges, certain investment gains or losses and non-recurring income tax items, the exact amount of which are not currently determinable, but may be significant. For that reason, we are unable to provide fourth quarter and full-year GAAP net earnings estimates at this time. Furthermore, the expected fourth quarter and full-year 2008 non-GAAP results are subject to completion of our year-end accounting processes, which include the finalization of several potentially significant items that could

Table of Contents

affect these results. These items include, among others, the valuation of accounts receivable and inventories, estimation of certain contingent liabilities, and the finalization of our provision for income taxes. Final results could also be affected by certain subsequent events in accordance with GAAP.

We believe that non-GAAP earnings per diluted share is useful because that information is an appropriate measure for evaluating our operating performance. Internally, we use this non-GAAP information as an indicator of business performance, and evaluate management's effectiveness with specific reference to this indicator. This measure should be considered in addition to, not a substitute for, or superior to, measures of financial performance prepared in accordance with GAAP.

Dividend Declaration

Also on January 9, 2009, our Board of Directors declared a regular quarterly dividend of \$0.26 per common share. The dividend is payable March 2, 2009 to stockholders of record as of the close of business on January 23, 2009. The Board of Directors currently plans to continue to pay the present quarterly dividend of \$0.26 per share.

Table of Contents**The Offering**

The brief summary below describes the principal terms of the notes. Some of the terms and conditions described below are subject to important limitations and exceptions. The Description of the Notes section of this prospectus supplement contains a more detailed description of the terms and conditions of the notes.

Issuer	R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company
Notes Offered	\$ aggregate principal amount of % notes due 2019.
Maturity	The notes will mature on , 2019.
Interest Rates and Payment Dates	The notes will bear interest at a rate of % per year, payable semiannually in arrears on and of each year, commencing on , 2009.
Interest Rate Adjustment Based on Rating Events	The interest rate payable on the notes will be subject to adjustments from time to time if Moody's Investors Service, Inc. or Standard & Poor's Ratings Services downgrades (or downgrades and subsequently upgrades) the debt rating assigned to the notes as described in Description of the Notes Interest Rate Adjustment.
Ranking	The notes will be our unsecured obligations and will rank equally with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness from time to time outstanding.
Optional Redemption	We may redeem the notes at any time or from time to time, in whole or in part, at a redemption price as described under Description of the Notes Optional Redemption.
Change of Control and Below Investment Grade Rating	If a change of control event occurs with respect to RR Donnelley and the notes are rated below investment grade on the 60 th day following the consummation of the change of control, unless we have exercised our right to redeem the notes, holders of notes will have the right to require us to repurchase all or part of their notes at a price equal to 101% of the aggregate principal amount of the notes repurchased together with accrued and unpaid interest, as described more fully under Description of the Notes Change of Control.
Use of Proceeds	We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering to repay outstanding commercial paper and revolving credit facility borrowings and for general corporate purposes. See Use of Proceeds.
Risk Factors	Investing in the notes involves risks. You should consider carefully all of the information set forth in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, and in particular, should evaluate the specific factors set forth under Risk Factors on page S-10 of this prospectus supplement before investing in the notes.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

An investment in the notes is subject to numerous risks, including those listed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K and the additional risks described below. You should carefully consider the following risks, along with the information provided elsewhere in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. These risks could materially affect our ability to meet obligations under the notes. You could lose all or part of your investment in and expected return on the notes.

Risks Related to our Business

Restructuring and impairment charges resulted in a net loss in 2007 and such charges could be recorded in the future.

We suffered a net loss in 2007 as a result of \$839.0 million in restructuring and impairment charges relating primarily to the write-off of certain trade names, including Moore Wallace and OfficeTiger, and the impairment of goodwill associated with the business process outsourcing reporting unit within our International segment. We also incurred impairment and restructuring charges of \$206.1 million in 2006 and \$419.8 million in 2005. As we stated in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2008, the unprecedented credit crisis and the global economic downturn could result in changes to expectations of future financial results and key valuation assumptions applicable to our reporting units. These changes could result in changes to management's estimates of the fair value of those reporting units and may result in material impairments. We expect to complete our impairment analysis in connection with the preparation of the financial statements to be included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008. Any impairment of the value of goodwill or other intangible assets will result in a charge against earnings and would reflect management's expectations regarding the results of operations and financial position of our business units in future periods. The factors that lead to the incurrence of restructuring and impairment charges may also limit our ability to raise needed financing, or to do so on favorable terms, because those charges are taken into account by the organizations that issue investment ratings on our indebtedness.

Declines in the market value of the securities held by our pension plans could materially reduce the funded status of the plans and affect the level of pension expense and required contributions in 2009 and future years.

The funded status of our pension plans is dependent upon many factors, including returns on invested assets and the level of certain market interest rates. Declines in the market value of the securities held by the plans during 2008 could materially reduce the funded status of the plans and affect the level of pension expense and required contributions in 2009 and future years. Under ERISA, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, or PBGC, has the authority to terminate an underfunded pension plan under limited circumstances. In the event our pension plans are terminated for any reason while the plans are underfunded, we will incur a liability to the PBGC that may be equal to the entire amount of the underfunding and, under certain circumstances, the liability could be senior to the notes.

The recent global market and economic conditions, as well as the effects of these conditions on our customers' businesses, may adversely affect our results of operations.

Global economic conditions affect our customers' businesses and the markets they serve. Demand for advertising tends to correlate with changes in the level of economic activity in the markets our customers serve. Since a part of our business relies on our customers' advertising spending, a prolonged downturn in the global economy and an uncertain economic outlook may reduce the demand for printing and related services that we provide these customers. Economic weakness and constrained advertising spending has resulted, and may result in the future, in decreased revenue, gross margin, earnings or growth rates and difficulty in managing inventory levels and collection of customer receivables. In addition, customer difficulties have resulted, and could result in the future, in increases in bad debt write-offs and to our allowance for doubtful accounts receivable. Economic downturns may also result in restructuring actions and associated expenses and impairment of long-lived assets, including goodwill and other intangibles. Uncertainty about future economic conditions makes it difficult for us to forecast operating results and to make decisions about future investments.

Table of Contents**Risks Related to the Offering**

There is no established trading market for the notes.

Prior to the offering of the notes, there is currently no established trading market for the notes and an active market may not develop. As a result, you may not be able to resell your notes for an extended period of time, if at all. Consequently, your lenders may be reluctant to accept the notes as collateral for loans. In addition, in response to prevailing interest rates and market conditions generally or other factors referred to in the section entitled "Forward Looking Statements," the notes could trade at a price lower than their initial offering price and you may not be able to liquidate your investment.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

	For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2008	For the Fiscal Years Ended December 31,				
		2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	4.01x	1.30x	4.18x	3.15x	3.97x	4.18x

The ratio has been computed by dividing earnings available for fixed charges by fixed charges. For purposes of computing the ratio:

earnings available for fixed charges consist of (i) earnings from continuing operations before income taxes, minority interest, cumulative effect of change in accounting principle, excluding (a) equity income or loss of minority-owned companies, (b) fixed charges before capitalized interest, and (c) amortization of capitalized interest, and (ii) dividends received from investees under the equity method, less minority interest income or loss in majority-owned subsidiaries; and

fixed charges consist of (i) interest on indebtedness, whether expensed or capitalized, including amortization of discounts related to indebtedness and (ii) that portion of rental expense we believe is representative of interest.

Table of Contents**USE OF PROCEEDS**

The net proceeds from this offering are expected to be approximately \$ _____ million, after deducting the underwriting discount and our estimated offering expenses. We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering to repay outstanding commercial paper and revolving credit facility borrowings and for general corporate purposes. As of January 13, 2009, we had \$236.9 million of borrowings under our commercial paper program backed by our revolving credit facility. The weighted average interest rate on commercial paper borrowings was 5.38% for the year ended December 31, 2007 and 3.27% for the nine months ended September 30, 2008. As of January 13, 2009, we had \$200.0 million of borrowings outstanding under our revolving credit facility. The proceeds from these borrowings were used to repay a portion of our borrowings under our commercial paper program. The weighted average interest rate on these borrowings was 5.56% for the year ended December 31, 2007 and 5.51% for the nine months ended September 30, 2008.

Amounts repaid under our revolving credit facility may be reborrowed in the future and are available to back commercial paper issuances. We expect to either borrow under our revolving credit facility or issue additional commercial paper backed by our revolving credit facility to repay our \$400 million of 3.75% senior notes due April 1, 2009.

CAPITALIZATION

The following table sets forth our cash and cash equivalents and our capitalization as of September 30, 2008 on an actual basis and on an as adjusted basis to give effect to the sale of the notes offered hereby and the application of those net proceeds as described under Use of Proceeds. You should read this table in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and the related notes incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

	As of September 30, 2008	
	Actual (\$ amounts in millions)	As Adjusted
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 435.7	\$ 435.7
Total debt (including current portion):		
Existing notes and debentures	3,592.0	3,592.0
Revolving credit facility ⁽¹⁾	275.0	
Notes offered hereby		
Other existing indebtedness ⁽²⁾	522.8	522.8
Total debt (including current portion)	4,389.8	
Total shareholders' equity	3,998.4	3,998.4
Total capitalization	\$ 8,388.2	\$ _____

⁽¹⁾ We have a \$2.0 billion 5-year unsecured revolving credit facility that can be used for general corporate purposes, including letters of credit and as a backstop for our commercial paper program. As of September 30, 2008, there were \$275.0 million in borrowings outstanding under the facility. Additionally, as of September 30, 2008, we had \$213.3 million of credit facilities outside of the United States, most of which were uncommitted. As of September 30, 2008, we had \$45.1 million in outstanding letters of credit, of which \$42.2 million reduced availability under our credit facilities.

⁽²⁾ At September 30, 2008, other existing indebtedness consisted of commercial paper, international short-term borrowings, vendor financing arrangements and capital leases.

Table of Contents**Interest Rate Adjustment**

The interest rate payable on the notes will be subject to adjustment from time to time if either Moody's or S&P or, in either case, any substitute rating agency (as defined below) downgrades (or downgrades and subsequently upgrades) the debt rating assigned to the notes, in the manner described below.

Moody's means Moody's Investors Service, Inc., a subsidiary of Moody's Corporation, and its successors.

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

Substitute rating agency means a nationally recognized statistical rating organization within the meaning of Rule 15c3-1(c)(2)(vi)(F) under the Exchange Act selected by us (as certified by a resolution of our Board of Directors) as a replacement agency for Moody's or S&P, or both of them, as the case may be.

If the rating from Moody's (or any substitute rating agency) of the notes is decreased to a rating set forth in the immediately following table, the interest rate on the notes will increase such that it will equal the interest rate payable on the notes on the date of their issuance plus the percentage set forth opposite the ratings from the table below:

Moody's Rating*	Percentage Points
Ba1	0.25
Ba2	0.50
Ba3	0.75
B1 or below	1.00

* Including the equivalent rating of any substitute rating agency.

If the rating from S&P (or any substitute rating agency) of the notes is decreased to a rating set forth in the immediately following table, the interest rate on the notes will increase such that it will equal the interest rate payable on the notes on the date of their issuance plus the percentage set forth opposite the ratings from the table below:

S&P Rating*	Percentage Points
BB+	0.25
BB	0.50
BB-	0.75
B+ or below	1.00

* Including the equivalent rating of any substitute rating agency.

If at any time the interest rate on the notes has been adjusted upward as a result of a decrease in a rating by either Moody's or S&P (or, in either case, a substitute rating agency), as the case may be, and subsequently such rating agency increases its rating of the notes to any of the threshold ratings set forth above, the interest rate on the notes will be decreased such that the interest rate for the notes will equal the interest rate payable on the notes on the date of their issuance plus the percentages set forth opposite the ratings from the tables above in effect immediately following the increase in rating. If Moody's (or any substitute rating agency) subsequently increases its rating of the notes to Baa3 (or its equivalent, in the case of a substitute rating agency) or higher, and S&P (or any substitute rating agency thereof) increases its rating to BBB- (or its equivalent, in the case of a substitute rating agency) or higher, the interest rate on the notes will be decreased to the interest rate payable on the notes on the date of their issuance. In addition, the interest rates on the notes will permanently cease to be subject to any adjustment described above (notwithstanding any subsequent decrease in the ratings by either or both rating

Table of Contents

agencies) if the notes become rated A3 and A- (or the equivalent of either such rating, in the case of a substitute rating agency) or higher by Moody's and S&P (or, in either case, a substitute rating agency thereof), respectively (or one of these ratings if the notes are only rated by one rating agency).

Each adjustment required by any decrease or increase in a rating set forth above, whether occasioned by the action of Moody's or S&P (or, in either case, a substitute rating agency), shall be made independent of (and in addition to) any and all other adjustments. In no event shall (1) the interest rate for the notes be reduced to below the interest rate payable on the notes on the date of their issuance or (2) the total increase in the interest rate on the notes exceed 2.00% above the interest rate payable on the notes on the date of their issuance.

No adjustments in the interest rate of the notes shall be made solely as a result of a rating agency ceasing to provide a rating of the notes. If at any time Moody's or S&P ceases to provide a rating of the notes for a reason beyond our control, we will use our commercially reasonable efforts to obtain a rating of the notes from a substitute rating agency, to the extent one exists, and if a substitute rating agency exists, for purposes of determining any increase or decrease in the interest rate on the notes pursuant to the tables above (a) such substitute rating agency will be substituted for the last rating agency to provide a rating of the notes but which has since ceased to provide such rating, (b) the relative rating scale used by such substitute rating agency to assign ratings to senior unsecured debt will be determined in good faith by an independent investment banking institution of national standing appointed by us and, for purposes of determining the applicable ratings included in the applicable table above with respect to such substitute rating agency, such ratings will be deemed to be the equivalent ratings used by Moody's or S&P, as applicable, in such table and (c) the interest rate on the notes will increase or decrease, as the case may be, such that the interest rate equals the interest rate payable on the notes on the date of their issuance plus the appropriate percentage, if any, set forth opposite the rating from such substitute rating agency in the applicable table above (taking into account the provisions of clause (b) above) (plus any applicable percentage resulting from a decreased rating by the other rating agency). For so long as only one of Moody's or S&P provides a rating of the notes and no substitute rating agency is offered to replace that rating agency, any subsequent increase or decrease in the interest rate of the notes necessitated by a reduction or increase in the rating by the agency providing the rating shall be twice the percentage set forth in the applicable table above. For so long as none of Moody's, S&P or a substitute rating agency provides a rating of the notes, the interest rate on the notes will increase to, or remain at, as the case may be, 2.00% above the interest rate payable on the notes on the date of their issuance. If Moody's or S&P either ceases to rate the notes for reasons within our control or ceases to make a rating of the notes publicly available for reasons within our control, we will not be entitled to obtain a rating from a substitute rating agency and the increase or decrease in the interest rate of the notes shall be determined in the manner described above as if either only one or no rating agency provides a rating of the notes, as the case may be.

Any interest rate increase or decrease described above will take effect on the next business day after the rating change has occurred.

If the interest rate payable on the notes is increased as described above, the term "interest," as used with respect to the notes, will be deemed to include any such additional interest unless the context otherwise requires.

Methods of Receiving Payments on the Notes

If a holder has given us wire transfer instructions, we will pay, or cause to be paid by the paying agent, all principal, premium, if any, and interest on that holder's notes in accordance with those instructions. All other payments on the notes will be made at the office or agency of the paying agent and registrar unless we elect to make interest payments by check mailed to the holders at their address set forth in the register of holders.

Ranking

The notes will be senior unsecured obligations of the Company. The payment of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the notes will:

rank equally in right of payment with all other indebtedness of the Company that is not, by its terms, expressly subordinated to other indebtedness of the Company;

Table of Contents

rank senior in right of payment to all indebtedness of the Company that is, by its terms, expressly subordinated to the senior indebtedness of the Company; and

be effectively subordinated to the secured indebtedness of the Company to the extent of the value of the collateral securing such indebtedness and to the indebtedness and other obligations of the Company's subsidiaries.

Optional Redemption

We may, at our option, redeem the notes in whole at any time or in part from time to time at a redemption price equal to the greater of (1) 100% of the principal amount of the notes to be redeemed and (2) as determined by the Quotation Agent (as defined below), the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest in respect of the notes to be redeemed (not including any portion of those payments of interest accrued as of the date of redemption) discounted to the date of redemption (the *Redemption Date*) on a semi-annual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) at the Adjusted Treasury Rate (as defined below) plus _____ basis points plus accrued interest to the Redemption Date.

Adjusted Treasury Rate means, with respect to any Redemption Date, the rate per year equal to the semi-annual equivalent yield to maturity of the Comparable Treasury Issue, assuming a price for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed as a percentage of its principal amount) equal to the Comparable Treasury Price for that Redemption Date.

Comparable Treasury Issue means the United States Treasury security selected by the Quotation Agent as having a maturity comparable to the remaining term of the notes to be redeemed that would be utilized, at the time of selection and in accordance with customary financial practice, in pricing new issues of corporate debt securities of comparable maturity to the remaining term of those notes.

Comparable Treasury Price means, with respect to any Redemption Date, (1) the average of the Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations for that Redemption Date, after excluding the highest and lowest Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, or (2) if the Quotation Agent obtains fewer than four Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, the average of all Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations so received.

Quotation Agent means the Reference Treasury Dealer appointed by us.

Reference Treasury Dealer means (1) each of Banc of America Securities LLC, Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. and their respective successors; *provided, however*, that if any of the foregoing shall cease to be a primary U.S. Government securities dealer in New York City (a *Primary Treasury Dealer*), we will substitute another Primary Treasury Dealer, and (2) any one other Primary Treasury Dealer selected by us.

Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations means, with respect to each Reference Treasury Dealer and any Redemption Date, the average, as determined by the Quotation Agent, of the bid and asked prices for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed in each case as a percentage of its principal amount) quoted in writing to the Quotation Agent by that Reference Treasury Dealer at 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the third business day preceding that Redemption Date.

We will mail notice of any redemption at least 30 days, but not more than 60 days, before the Redemption Date to each holder of the notes to be redeemed. Unless we default in payment of the redemption price on the Redemption Date, on and after the Redemption Date, interest will cease to accrue on the notes or portions thereof called for redemption.

Any notice to holders of notes of a redemption hereunder needs to include the appropriate calculation of the redemption price, but does not need to include the redemption price itself. The actual redemption price, calculated as described above, must be set forth in an Officers' Certificate of ours delivered to the Trustee no later than two business days prior to the Redemption Date.

Table of Contents

Mandatory Redemption

We are not required to make mandatory redemption or sinking fund payments with respect to the notes.

Selection and Notice of Redemption

If we redeem less than all the notes at any time and the notes are Global Notes held by DTC, DTC will select the notes to be redeemed in accordance with its Operational Arrangements. If the notes are not Global Notes held by DTC, the Trustee will select notes on a pro rata basis, or on as nearly a pro rata basis as is practicable.

We will redeem notes of \$2,000 or less in whole and not in part. We will cause notices of redemption to be mailed by first-class mail at least 30 but not more than 60 days before the Redemption Date to each holder of notes to be redeemed at its registered address. We may provide in the notice that payment of the redemption price and performance of our obligations with respect to the redemption or purchase may be performed by another person. Any notice may, at our discretion, be subject to the satisfaction of one or more conditions precedent.

If any note is to be redeemed in part only, the notice of redemption that relates to that note will state the portion of the principal amount thereof to be redeemed. We will issue a new note in a principal amount equal to the unredeemed portion of the original note in the name of the holder upon cancellation of the original note. Notes called for redemption become due on the date fixed for redemption. On and after such date, unless we default in payment of the redemption price on such date, interest ceases to accrue on the notes or portions thereof called for such redemption.

Change of Control

If a Change of Control Triggering Event occurs, unless we have exercised our right to redeem the notes as described above, holders of notes will have the right to require us to repurchase all or any part (equal to \$2,000 or an integral multiple of \$1,000 in excess thereof) of their notes pursuant to the offer described below (the *Change of Control Offer*) on the terms set forth in the notes. In the Change of Control Offer, we will be required to offer payment in cash equal to 101% of the aggregate principal amount of notes repurchased plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on the notes repurchased, to the date of purchase (the *Change of Control Payment*). Within 30 days following any Change of Control Triggering Event, we will be required to mail a notice to holders of notes describing the transaction or transactions that constitute the Change of Control Triggering Event and offering to repurchase the notes on the date specified in the notice, which date will be no earlier than 30 days and no later than 60 days from the date such notice is mailed (the *Change of Control Payment Date*), pursuant to the procedures required by the notes and described in such notice. We must comply with the requirements of Rule 14e-1 under the Exchange Act and any other securities laws and regulations thereunder to the extent those laws and regulations are applicable in connection with the repurchase of the notes as a result of a Change of Control Triggering Event. To the extent that the provisions of any securities laws or regulations conflict with the Change of Control provisions of the notes, we will be required to comply with the applicable securities laws and regulations and will not be deemed to have breached our obligations under the Change of Control provisions of the notes by virtue of such conflicts.

On the Change of Control Payment Date, we will be required, to the extent lawful, to:

accept for payment all notes or portions of notes properly tendered pursuant to the Change of Control Offer;

deposit with the paying agent an amount equal to the Change of Control Payment in respect of all notes or portions of notes properly tendered; and

deliver or cause to be delivered to the Trustee the notes properly accepted together with an officers' certificate stating the aggregate principal amount of notes or portions of notes being purchased.

The definition of Change of Control includes a phrase relating to the direct or indirect sale, lease, transfer, conveyance or other disposition of all or substantially all of the properties or assets of RR Donnelley and its

Table of Contents

subsidiaries taken as a whole. Although there is a limited body of case law interpreting the phrase substantially all, there is no precise established definition of the phrase under applicable law. Accordingly, the ability of a holder of notes to require RR Donnelley to repurchase its notes as a result of a sale, lease, transfer, conveyance or other disposition of less than all of the assets of RR Donnelley and its subsidiaries taken as a whole to another Person or group may be uncertain.

For purposes of the foregoing discussion of a repurchase at the option of holders, the following definitions are applicable:

Below Investment Grade Rating Event means the notes are rated below an Investment Grade Rating by each of the Rating Agencies (as defined below) on the 60th day following the occurrence of a Change of Control (which date shall be extended if the rating of the notes is under publicly announced consideration for possible downgrade by any of the Rating Agencies on such 60th day, such extension to last until the date on which the Rating Agency considering such possible downgrade either (x) rates the notes below an Investment Grade Rating or (y) publicly announces that it is no longer considering the notes for possible downgrade; *provided*, that no such extension shall occur if any of the Rating Agencies rates the notes with an Investment Grade Rating that is not subject to review for possible downgrade on such 60th day).

Change of Control means the occurrence of any of the following: (1) the direct or indirect sale, transfer, conveyance or other disposition (other than by way of merger or consolidation), in one or a series of related transactions, of all or substantially all of the properties or assets of RR Donnelley and its subsidiaries taken as a whole to any person (as that term is used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act) other than RR Donnelley or one of its subsidiaries; (2) the consummation of any transaction (including, without limitation, any merger or consolidation) the result of which is that any person (as that term is used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act) becomes the beneficial owner, directly or indirectly, of more than 50% of the then outstanding number of shares of RR Donnelley's voting stock; or (3) the first day on which a majority of the members of RR Donnelley's Board of Directors are not Continuing Directors.

Change of Control Triggering Event means the occurrence of both a Change of Control and a Below Investment Grade Rating Event.

Continuing Directors means, as of any date of determination, any member of the Board of Directors of RR Donnelley who (1) was a member of such Board of Directors on the date of the issuance of the notes; or (2) was nominated for election or elected to such Board of Directors with the approval of a majority of the Continuing Directors who were members of such Board of Directors at the time of such nomination or election (either by a specific vote or by approval of RR Donnelley's proxy statement in which such member was named as a nominee for election as a director, without objection to such nomination).

Investment Grade Rating means a rating equal to or higher than Baa3 (or the equivalent) by Moody's and BBB- (or the equivalent) by S&P.

Rating Agencies means (1) each of Moody's and S&P; and (2) if any of Moody's or S&P ceases to rate the notes or fails to make a rating of the notes publicly available for reasons outside of our control, a nationally recognized statistical rating organization within the meaning of Rule 15c3-1(c)(2)(vi)(F) under the Exchange Act, selected by us (as certified by a resolution of our Board of Directors) as a replacement agency for Moody's or S&P, or both of them, as the case may be.

Certain Covenants

Restrictions on Secured Debt

The indenture provides that neither R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company nor any Restricted Subsidiary will create, incur, issue, assume or guarantee any indebtedness for borrowed money secured by a mortgage, security interest, pledge or lien (which we refer to herein, collectively, as a *mortgage*) on or upon any Principal

Table of Contents

Property or any shares of capital stock or indebtedness of any Restricted Subsidiary, whether owned at the date of the indenture or acquired after the date of the indenture, without ensuring that the notes (together with, if we decide, any other indebtedness created, issued, assumed or guaranteed by R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company or any Restricted Subsidiary then existing or thereafter created) will be secured by such mortgage equally and proportionately with (or, at our option, prior to) such indebtedness. This restriction will not apply to indebtedness secured by any of the following:

mortgages on any property acquired, constructed or improved by, or on any shares of capital stock or indebtedness acquired by, us or any Restricted Subsidiary after the date of the indenture to secure indebtedness incurred for the purpose of financing or refinancing all or any part of the purchase price of such property, shares of capital stock or indebtedness or of the cost of any construction or improvements on such properties, in each case, to the extent that the indebtedness is incurred prior to or within 180 days after the applicable acquisition, completion of construction or beginning of commercial operation of such property, as the case may be;

mortgages on any property, shares of capital stock or indebtedness existing at the time we or any Restricted Subsidiary acquire any of the same;

mortgages on property of a corporation existing at the time we or any Restricted Subsidiary merge or consolidate with such corporation or at the time we or any Restricted Subsidiary acquire all or substantially all of the properties of such corporation;

mortgages on any property of, or shares of capital stock or indebtedness of, a corporation existing at the time such corporation becomes a Restricted Subsidiary;

mortgages to secure indebtedness of any Restricted Subsidiary to us or another Restricted Subsidiary;

mortgages in favor of certain governmental bodies to secure partial, progress, advance or other payments pursuant to any contract or statute or to secure indebtedness incurred or guaranteed to finance or refinance all or any part of the purchase price of the property, shares of capital stock or indebtedness subject to such mortgages, or the cost of constructing or improving the property subject to such mortgage; and

extensions, renewals or replacements of any mortgage existing on the date of the indenture or any mortgage referred to above; however, the principal amount of indebtedness secured thereby may not exceed the principal amount of indebtedness so secured at the time of such extension, renewal or replacement, and such extension, renewal or replacement will be limited to all or a part of the property (plus improvements and construction on such property), shares of capital stock or indebtedness which was subject to the mortgage so extended, renewed or replaced.

Notwithstanding the restriction outlined above, we or any Restricted Subsidiary may, without having to equally and proportionately secure the notes, issue, assume or guarantee indebtedness secured by a mortgage not excepted from the restriction if the total amount of the following does not at the time exceed 15% of Consolidated Net Tangible Assets:

such indebtedness; plus

all other indebtedness that we and our Restricted Subsidiaries have incurred or have guaranteed existing at such time and secured by mortgages not so excepted; plus

Edgar Filing: RR Donnelley & Sons Co - Form 424B5

the Attributable Debt existing in respect of Sale and Lease-Back Transactions existing at such time. Attributable Debt with respect to the following types of Sale and Lease-Back Transactions will not be included for the purposes of calculating Attributable Debt in the preceding sentence:

Sale and Lease-Back Transactions in respect of which an amount (equaling at least the greater of the net proceeds of the sale of property or the fair market value of the property) is used within 180 days

S-19

Table of Contents

after the effective date of the arrangement to make non-mandatory prepayments on long-term indebtedness, retire long-term indebtedness or acquire, construct or improve a manufacturing plant or facility which is, or upon completion will be, a Principal Property; and

Sale and Lease-Back Transactions in which the property involved would have been permitted to be mortgaged under the first bullet point of the preceding paragraph.

Restrictions on Sale and Lease-Back Transactions

The indenture provides that neither we nor any Restricted Subsidiary will enter into any Sale and Lease-Back Transaction with respect to any Principal Property unless:

we or such Restricted Subsidiary are entitled under the provisions described in the first or sixth bullet point in the first paragraph under **Restrictions on Secured Debt** to create, issue, assume or guarantee indebtedness secured by a mortgage on the property to be leased without having to equally and proportionately secure the notes;

we or such Restricted Subsidiary are entitled under the provisions described in the last paragraph under **Restrictions on Secured Debt** to create, issue, assume or guarantee indebtedness secured by a mortgage on such property in an amount at least equal to the Attributable Debt in respect of the Sale and Lease-Back Transaction without having to equally and proportionately secure the notes; or

we apply an amount (equaling at least the greater of the net proceeds of the sale of property or the fair market value of the property) within 180 days after the effective date of the arrangement to make non-mandatory prepayments on long-term indebtedness, retire long-term indebtedness or acquire, construct or improve a manufacturing plant or facility which is, or upon completion will be, a Principal Property.

Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets

The indenture provides that we may consolidate or merge with or into any other corporation, or lease, sell or transfer all or substantially all of our property and assets if:

the corporation formed by such consolidation or into which we are merged, or the party which acquires by lease, sale or transfer all or substantially all of our property and assets is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the United States, any state in the United States or the District of Columbia;

the corporation formed by such consolidation or into which we are merged, or the party which acquires by lease, sale or transfer all or substantially all of our property and assets, agrees to pay the principal of, and any premium and interest on, the notes and perform and observe all covenants and conditions of the indenture by executing and delivering to the Trustee a supplemental indenture; and

immediately after giving effect to such transaction and treating indebtedness for borrowed money which becomes our obligation or an obligation of a Restricted Subsidiary as a result of such transaction as having been incurred by us or such Restricted Subsidiary at the time of such transaction, no Event of Default, and no event which, after notice or lapse of time or both, would become an Event of Default, has happened and is continuing.

If, upon any such consolidation or merger, or upon any such lease, sale or transfer of any of our Principal Property or any shares of capital stock or indebtedness of any Restricted Subsidiary, owned immediately prior to the transaction, would thereupon become subject to any mortgage, security interest, pledge or lien securing any indebtedness for borrowed money of, or guaranteed by, such other corporation or party (other than any mortgage, security interest, pledge or lien permitted as described under **Certain Covenants** **Restrictions on Secured Debt** above), we, prior to

such consolidation, merger, lease, sale or transfer, will, by executing and delivering to

S-20

Table of Contents

the Trustee a supplemental indenture, secure the due and punctual payment of the principal of, and any premium and interest on, the notes (together with, if we decide, any other indebtedness of, or guaranteed by, us or any Restricted Subsidiary then existing or thereafter created) equally and proportionately with (or, at our option, prior to) the indebtedness secured by such mortgage, security interest, pledge or lien.

Reports

We will file with the Trustee, within 15 days after we are required to file the same with the Commission, copies of the annual reports and of the information, documents and other reports (or copies thereof as the Commission may from time to time by rules and regulations prescribe) which we may be required to file with the Commission pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act; or, if we are not required to file information, documents or reports under those Sections, then we will file with the Trustee and the Commission, in accordance with rules and regulations prescribed from time to time by the Commission, such of the supplementary and periodic information, documents and reports which may be required pursuant to Section 13 of the Exchange Act in respect of a security listed and registered on a national securities exchange as may be prescribed from time to time in those rules and regulations.

Events of Default

With respect to the notes, an Event of Default is defined in the indenture as being:

a failure to pay interest upon the notes that continues for a period of 30 days after payment is due;

a failure to pay the principal or premium, if any, on the notes when due upon maturity, redemption, acceleration or otherwise;

a failure to comply with any of our other agreements contained in the indenture applicable to the notes for a period of 90 days after written notice to us of such failure from the Trustee (or to us and the Trustee from the holders of at least 25% of the principal amount of the notes); and

certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization relating to us.

The indenture provides that if there is a continuing Event of Default with respect to the notes, either the Trustee or the holders of at least 25% of the outstanding principal amount of the notes may declare the principal amount of all of the notes to be due and payable immediately. However, at any time after the Trustee or the holders, as the case may be, declare an acceleration with respect to notes, but before the applicable person has obtained a judgment or decree based on such acceleration, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding notes may, under certain conditions, cancel such acceleration if we have cured all Events of Default (other than the nonpayment of accelerated principal) with respect to such notes or all such Events of Default have been waived as provided in the indenture. For information as to waiver of defaults, see Modification and Waiver.

The indenture provides that, subject to the duties of the Trustee to act with the required standard of care, if there is a continuing Event of Default, the Trustee need not exercise any of its rights or powers under the indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders of notes, unless such holders have offered to the Trustee reasonable security or indemnity. Subject to such provisions for security or indemnification of the Trustee and certain other conditions, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding notes of a series will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the Trustee or exercising any trust or power the Trustee holds with respect to the notes of that series.

No holder of any note will have any right to institute any proceeding with respect to the indenture or for any remedy under the indenture unless:

the Trustee has failed to institute such proceeding for 60 days after the holder has previously given to the Trustee written notice of a continuing Event of Default with respect to notes;

Table of Contents

the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding notes have made a written request, and offered reasonable security or indemnity, to the Trustee to institute such proceeding as Trustee; and

the Trustee has not received from the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding notes a direction inconsistent with such request.

However, the holder of any note will have an absolute and unconditional right to receive payment of the principal of, and any premium or interest on, such note on or after the date or dates they are to be paid as expressed in such note and to institute suit for the enforcement of any such payment.

We are required to furnish to the Trustee annually a statement as to the absence of certain defaults under the indenture. The indenture provides that the Trustee need not provide holders of notes notice of any default (other than the nonpayment of principal or any premium or interest) if it considers it in the interest of the holders of notes not to provide such notice.

Modification and Waiver

We and the Trustee may modify or amend the indenture with the consent of the holders of a majority of the principal amount of the outstanding notes of each series affected by the modification or amendment. However, no such modification or amendment may, without the consent of the holders of all then outstanding notes of the affected series:

change the due date of the principal of, or any installment of principal of or interest on, the notes of that series;

reduce the principal amount of, or any premium or interest rate on, the notes of that series;

change the place or currency of payment of principal of, or any premium or interest on, the notes of that series;

impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on or with respect to the notes of that series after the due date thereof; or

reduce the percentage in principal amount of the notes of that series then outstanding, the consent of whose holders is required for modification or amendment of the indenture, for waiver of compliance with certain provisions of the indenture or for waiver of certain defaults.

The holders of a majority of the principal amount of the outstanding notes of any series may waive, insofar as that series is concerned, future compliance by us with certain restrictive covenants of the indenture. The holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the outstanding notes of any series may waive any past default under the indenture with respect to that series, except a failure by us to pay the principal of, or any premium or interest on, any notes of that series or a provision that cannot be modified or amended without the consent of the holders of all outstanding notes of the affected series.

No Personal Liability of Directors, Officers, Employees and Stockholders

No director, officer, employee or stockholder of ours will have any liability for any of our obligations under the notes or the indenture or for any claim based on, in respect of, or by reason of, such obligations or their creation. Each holder of notes by accepting a note waives and releases all such liability. The waiver and release are part of the consideration for issuance of the notes.

Table of Contents

Defeasance

Defeasance and Discharge

The indenture provides that we may be discharged from any and all obligations in respect of the notes (except for certain obligations to register the transfer or exchange of notes, to replace stolen, destroyed, lost or mutilated notes, to maintain paying agencies, to compensate and indemnify the Trustee or to furnish the Trustee (if the Trustee is not the registrar) with the names and addresses of holders of notes). We will be so discharged if we irrevocably deposit with the Trustee, in trust, money and/or securities of the United States government in an amount sufficient, in the opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants, to pay each installment of principal of, and any premium and interest on, the notes on the applicable due dates for those payments in accordance with the terms of the notes.

This discharge may occur only if, among other things, we have delivered to the Trustee an opinion of counsel confirming that the holders of the notes will not recognize income, gain or loss for United States federal income tax purposes as a result of such defeasance and will be subject to United States federal income tax on the same amounts and in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if the discharge had not occurred. That opinion must state that we have received from, or there has been published by, the United States Internal Revenue Service a ruling or, since the date of execution of the indenture, there has been a change in the applicable United States federal income tax law, in any case, in support of that opinion.

Defeasance of Certain Covenants and Certain Events of Default

The indenture provides that, upon compliance with certain conditions:

we may omit to comply with the covenants described under **Certain Covenants Restrictions on Secured Debt** and **Certain Covenants Restrictions on Sale and Lease-Back Transactions** (all other obligations under the notes will remain in full force and effect); and

any omission to comply with those covenants will not constitute an Event of Default with respect to the notes (*covenant defeasance*).
The conditions include:

depositing with the Trustee money and/or securities of the United States government in an amount sufficient, in the opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants, to pay each installment of principal of, any premium and interest on the notes on the due dates for those payments in accordance with the terms of the notes; and

delivering to the Trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that the holders of the notes will not recognize income, gain or loss for United States federal income tax purposes as a result of the deposit and related covenant defeasance and will be subject to United States federal income tax on the same amounts and in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if the deposit and related covenant defeasance had not occurred.

Covenant Defeasance and Certain Other Events of Default

If we exercise our option to effect a covenant defeasance with respect to the notes as described above and the notes are thereafter declared due and payable because of an Event of Default (other than an Event of Default caused by failing to comply with the covenants that are defeased), the amount of money and securities we have deposited with the Trustee would be sufficient to pay amounts due on the notes on their respective due dates but may not be sufficient to pay amounts due on the notes at the time of acceleration resulting from such Event of Default. However, we would remain liable for such payments.

Governing Law

The indenture and the notes are governed by the laws of the State of New York.

Table of Contents

The Trustee

Wells Fargo Bank, National Association is the Trustee under the indenture. Wells Fargo Bank, National Association is also the trustee for our 5.625% Notes due 2012 and our 6.125% Notes due 2017, which were also issued under the indenture. The Trustee and its affiliates have engaged, currently are engaged, and may in the future engage in financial or other transactions with R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company and its affiliates in the ordinary course of their respective businesses, subject to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939.

Except during the continuance of an Event of Default, the Trustee will perform only such duties as are specifically set forth in the indenture. If an Event of Default shall have occurred and continues that is known to the Trustee, the Trustee will exercise such of the rights and powers vested in it under the indenture and use the same degree of care and skill in its exercise as a prudent person would exercise under the circumstances in the conduct of such person's own affairs.

Certain Definitions

Set forth below is a summary of certain of the defined terms used in the indenture. Reference is made to the indenture for the full definition of all such terms as well as any other capitalized terms used herein for which no definition is provided. Unless the context otherwise requires, an accounting term not otherwise defined has the meaning assigned to it in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Attributable Debt is defined in the indenture to mean, in the context of a Sale and Lease-Back Transaction, what we believe in good faith to be the present value, discounted at the interest rate implicit in the lease involved in such Sale and Lease-Back Transaction, of the lessee's obligation under the lease for rental payments during the remaining term of such lease, as it may be extended. For purposes of this definition, any amounts lessee must pay, whether or not designated as rent or additional rent, on account of maintenance and repairs, insurance, taxes, assessments, water rates or similar charges or any amounts lessee must pay under the lease contingent upon the amount of sales, maintenance and repairs, insurance, taxes, assessments, water rates or similar charges are not included in the determination of lessee's obligations under the lease.

Commission means the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Consolidated Net Tangible Assets is defined in the indenture to mean the total amount of assets minus:

all applicable reserves;

all current liabilities (excluding any liabilities which are by their terms extendible or renewable at the option of the obligor to a time more than 12 months after the time as of which the amount thereof is being computed and excluding current maturities of long-term indebtedness); and

all goodwill, trade names, trademarks, patents, unamortized debt discount and expense and other like intangible assets, all as shown in our audited consolidated balance sheet contained in our then most recent annual report to stockholders, except that assets will include an amount equal to the Attributable Debt in respect of any Sale and Lease-Back Transaction not capitalized on such balance sheet.

Default means any event which is, or after notice or passage of time or both would be, an Event of Default.

Event of Default has the meaning set forth under Events of Default.

Issue Date means the date on which the notes are initially issued.

Officer means the Chief Executive Officer, the President, the Chief Financial Officer or any Vice President, the Treasurer or the Secretary of the specified Person.

Table of Contents

Officers Certificate means a certificate signed by the Chairman of the Board, the Chief Executive Officer, the President or a Vice President, and by the Treasurer, an Assistant Treasurer, the Controller, an Assistant Controller, the Secretary or an Assistant Secretary, and delivered to the Trustee.

Person means any individual, corporation, company (including any limited liability company), association, partnership, joint venture, trust, unincorporated organization, government or any agency or political subdivision thereof or any other entity.

Principal Property is defined in the indenture to mean any manufacturing plant or manufacturing facility owned by us or any Restricted Subsidiary which is located within the United States and has a gross book value in excess of 1% of Consolidated Net Tangible Assets at the time of determination, except for any such plant or facility or any portion of such plant or facility which our board of directors does not deem material to the total business conducted by us and our Restricted Subsidiaries considered as one enterprise.

Restricted Subsidiary is defined in the indenture to mean any Subsidiary that has substantially all of its property located in or that conducts substantially all of its business within the United States (other than its territories or possessions and other than Puerto Rico) and that owns a Principal Property; however, any Subsidiary which is principally engaged in financing operations outside the United States or which is principally engaged in leasing or in financing installment receivables will not be considered a Restricted Subsidiary.

Sale and Lease-Back Transaction is defined in the indenture to mean the leasing by us or any Restricted Subsidiary of any Principal Property, whether owned at the date of the indenture or acquired after the date of the indenture (except for temporary leases for a term, including any renewal term, of up to three years and except for leases between us and any Restricted Subsidiary or between Restricted Subsidiaries), which property has been or is to be sold or transferred by us or such Restricted Subsidiary to any party with the intention of taking back a lease of such property.

Subsidiary is defined in the indenture to mean any corporation in which we and/or one or more other Subsidiaries, directly or indirectly, own more than 50% of the outstanding voting stock.

Table of Contents

BOOK-ENTRY; DELIVERY AND FORM

The notes initially will be represented by one or more permanent global certificates in definitive, fully registered form (the *Global Notes*). The Global Notes will be deposited upon issuance with The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York (*DTC*) and registered in the name of a nominee of DTC in the form of a global certificate.

The Global Notes

DTC has advised us that pursuant to procedures established by it (i) upon the issuance of the Global Notes, DTC or its custodian will credit, on its internal system, the principal amount at maturity of the individual beneficial interests represented by such Global Notes to the respective accounts of persons who have accounts with such depository and (ii) ownership of beneficial interests in the Global Notes will be shown on, and the transfer of such ownership will be effected only through, records maintained by DTC or its nominee (with respect to interests of participants) and the records of participants (with respect to interests of persons other than participants). Ownership of beneficial interests in the Global Notes will be limited to persons who have accounts with DTC (*participants*) or persons who hold interests through participants. Holders may hold their interests in the Global Notes directly through DTC if they are participants in such system, or indirectly through organizations that are participants in such system.

So long as DTC, or its nominee, is the registered owner or holder of the notes, DTC or such nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner or holder of the notes represented by such Global Notes for all purposes under the indenture governing the notes. No beneficial owner of an interest in the Global Notes will be able to transfer that interest except in accordance with DTC's procedures, in addition to those provided for under the indenture with respect to the notes.

Payments of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest (including additional interest) on, the Global Notes will be made to DTC or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owner of the Global Notes. None of RR Donnelley, the trustee or any paying agent under the indenture governing the notes will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in the Global Notes or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to such beneficial ownership interest.

DTC has advised us that its present practice is, upon receipt of any payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest (including additional interest) on the Global Notes, to credit immediately participants' accounts with payments in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in the principal amount of the Global Notes as shown on the records of DTC. Payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in the Global Notes held through such participants will be governed by standing instructions and customary practice, as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers registered in the names of nominees for such customers. Such payments will be the responsibility of such participants.

Transfers between participants in DTC will be effected in the ordinary way through DTC's same-day funds system in accordance with DTC rules and will be settled in same-day funds. If a holder requires physical delivery of a certificated security for any reason, including to sell notes to persons in states which require physical delivery of the notes, or to pledge such securities, such holder must transfer its interest in a Global Note, in accordance with the normal procedures of DTC and with the procedures set forth in the indenture governing the notes.

DTC has advised us that it will take any action permitted to be taken by a holder of notes, including the presentation of notes for exchange as described below, only at the direction of one or more participants to whose account the DTC interests in the Global Notes are credited and only in respect of such portion of the aggregate principal amount of notes as to which such participant or participants has or have given such direction. However,

Table of Contents

if there is an event of default under the indenture governing the notes, DTC will exchange the Global Notes for certificated securities, which it will distribute to its participants.

DTC has advised us as follows: DTC is a limited purpose trust company organized under the laws of the State of New York, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a clearing corporation within the meaning of the Uniform Commercial Code and a Clearing Agency registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Exchange Act. DTC was created to hold securities for its participants and facilitate the clearance and settlement of securities transactions between participants through electronic book-entry changes in accounts of its participants, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of certificates. Participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies and clearing corporations and certain other organizations. Indirect access to the DTC system is available to others such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a participant, either directly or indirectly (*indirect participants*).

Although DTC has agreed to the foregoing procedures in order to facilitate transfers of interests in the Global Note among participants of DTC, it is under no obligation to perform such procedures, and such procedures may be discontinued at any time. Neither we nor the trustee will have any responsibility for the performance by DTC or its participants or indirect participants of their respective obligations under the rules and procedures governing their operations.

Clearstream. Clearstream is incorporated under the laws of Luxembourg as a professional depository. Clearstream holds securities for its participating organizations (*Clearstream Participants*) and facilitates the clearance and settlement of securities transactions between Clearstream Participants through electronic book-entry changes in accounts of Clearstream Participants, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of certificates. Clearstream provides Clearstream Participants with, among other things, services for safekeeping, administration, clearance and establishment of internationally traded securities and securities lending and borrowing. Clearstream interfaces with domestic markets in several countries. As a professional depository, Clearstream is subject to regulation by the Luxembourg Monetary Institute. Clearstream Participants are recognized financial institutions around the world, including underwriters, securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations, and may include the underwriters. Indirect access to Clearstream is also available to others, such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Clearstream Participant either directly or indirectly.

Distributions with respect to notes held beneficially through Clearstream will be credited to cash accounts of Clearstream Participants in accordance with its rules and procedures to the extent received by DTC for Clearstream.

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

The Euroclear Operator is regulated and examined by the Belgian Banking Commission.

Table of Contents

Links have been established among DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear to facilitate the initial issuance of the notes sold outside of the United States and cross-market transfers of the notes associated with secondary market trading.

Although DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear have agreed to the procedures provided below in order to facilitate transfers, they are under no obligation to perform these procedures, and these procedures may be modified or discontinued at any time.

Clearstream and Euroclear will record the ownership interests of their participants in much the same way as DTC, and DTC will record the total ownership of each of the U.S. agents of Clearstream and Euroclear, as participants in DTC. When notes are to be transferred from the account of a DTC participant to the account of a Clearstream participant or a Euroclear participant, the purchaser must send instructions to Clearstream or Euroclear through a participant at least one day prior to settlement. Clearstream or Euroclear, as the case may be, will instruct its U.S. agent to receive notes against payment. After settlement, Clearstream or Euroclear will credit its participant's account. Credit for the notes will appear on the next day (European time).

Because settlement is taking place during New York business hours, DTC participants will be able to employ their usual procedures for sending notes to the relevant U.S. agent acting for the benefit of Clearstream or Euroclear participants. The sale proceeds will be available to the DTC seller on the settlement date. As a result, to the DTC participant, a cross-market transaction will settle no differently than a trade between two DTC participants.

When a Clearstream or Euroclear participant wishes to transfer notes to a DTC participant, the seller will be required to send instructions to Clearstream or Euroclear through a participant at least one business day prior to settlement. In these cases, Clearstream or Euroclear will instruct its U.S. agent to transfer these notes against payment for them. The payment will then be reflected in the account of the Clearstream or Euroclear participant the following day, with the proceeds back valued to the value date, which would be the preceding day, when settlement occurs in New York, if settlement is not completed on the intended value date, that is, the trade fails, proceeds credited to the Clearstream or Euroclear participant's account will instead be valued as of the actual settlement date.

You should be aware that you will only be able to make and receive deliveries, payments and other communications involving the notes through Clearstream and Euroclear on the days when those clearing systems are open for business. Those systems may not be open for business on days when banks, brokers and other institutions are open for business in the United States. In addition, because of time zone differences there may be problems with completing transactions involving Clearstream and Euroclear on the same business day as in the United States.

Certificated Securities

Certificated securities will be issued in exchange for beneficial interests in the Global Notes (i) if requested by a holder of such interests or (ii) if DTC is at any time unwilling or unable to continue as a depository for the Global Notes and a successor depository is not appointed by us within 90 days.

Table of Contents

UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAXATION

This section describes the material United States federal income tax consequences of owning the notes we are offering. It applies to you only if you acquire notes in the offering at the offering price and you hold your notes as capital assets for tax purposes. This section does not apply to you if you are a member of a class of holders subject to special rules, such as:

a dealer in securities or currencies,

a trader in securities that elects to use a mark-to-market method of accounting for your securities holdings,

a bank,

a life insurance company,

a tax-exempt organization,

a person that owns notes that are a hedge or that are hedged against interest rate risks,

a person that owns notes as part of a straddle or conversion transaction for tax purposes, or

a United States holder (as defined below) whose functional currency for tax purposes is not the U.S. dollar.

If you purchase notes at a price other than the offering price, the amortizable bond premium or market discount rules may also apply to you. You should consult your tax advisor regarding this possibility.

This section is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, its legislative history, existing and proposed regulations under the Internal Revenue Code, published rulings and court decisions, all as currently in effect. These laws are subject to change, possibly on a retroactive basis.

Please consult your own tax advisor concerning the consequences of owning these notes in your particular circumstances under the Internal Revenue Code and the laws of any other taxing jurisdiction.

United States Holders

This subsection describes the tax consequences to a United States holder. You are a United States holder if you are a beneficial owner of a note and you are:

a citizen or resident of the United States,

a domestic corporation,

Edgar Filing: RR Donnelley & Sons Co - Form 424B5

an estate whose income is subject to United States federal income tax regardless of its source, or

a trust if a United States court can exercise primary supervision over the trust's administration and one or more United States persons are authorized to control all substantial decisions of the trust.

If you are not a United States holder, this subsection does not apply to you and you should refer to [United States Alien Holders](#) below.

The tax treatment of the notes will depend upon whether the notes are properly treated as variable rate debt instruments and this will depend upon whether or not they provide for interest at an objective rate (that is, a rate determined using a single fixed formula based on objective financial or economic information) and whether or not it is reasonably expected that the return on the notes during the first half of the notes' term will be significantly greater or less than the return on the notes during the second half of the notes' term (Front- or Back-Loaded). We believe that the interest rate on the notes is not reasonably expected to be Front- or Back-Loaded and that such interest rate should otherwise qualify as an objective rate. We therefore think that the notes should qualify as variable rate debt instruments and intend to treat the notes in such a manner for all tax purposes (including tax reporting purposes).

S-29

Table of Contents

Under this characterization, you will be taxed on interest on your note as ordinary income at the time you receive the interest or when it accrues, depending on your method of accounting for tax purposes. Additionally, you will generally recognize capital gain or loss on the sale or retirement of your note equal to the difference between the amount you realize on the sale or retirement, excluding any amounts attributable to accrued but unpaid interest, and your tax basis in your note. Your tax basis in your note generally will be its cost. Capital gain of a non-corporate United States holder that is recognized in taxable years beginning before January 1, 2011 is generally taxed at a maximum rate of 15% where the holder has a holding period greater than one year.

There can be no assurance that the Internal Revenue Service will agree with us in treating the notes as variable rate debt instruments and the Internal Revenue Service could assert an alternative characterization of the notes that may be adverse to you. Please consult your tax advisor with respect to possible alternative characterizations.

United States Alien Holders

This subsection describes the tax consequences to a United States alien holder. You are a United States alien holder if you are the beneficial owner of a note and are, for United States federal income tax purposes:

a nonresident alien individual,

a foreign corporation, or

an estate or trust that in either case is not subject to United States federal income tax on a net income basis on income or gain from a note.

If you are a United States holder, this subsection does not apply to you.

Under United States federal income and estate tax law, and subject to the discussion of backup withholding below, if you are a United States alien holder of a note:

we and other U.S. payors generally will not be required to deduct United States withholding tax from payments of principal and interest to you if, in the case of payments of interest:

1. you do not actually or constructively own 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of RR Donnelley entitled to vote,
2. you are not a controlled foreign corporation that is related to RR Donnelley through stock ownership, and
3. the U.S. payor does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a United States person and:
 - a. you have furnished to the U.S. payor an Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN or an acceptable substitute form upon which you certify, under penalties of perjury, that you are a non-United States person,
 - b. in the case of payments made outside the United States to you at an offshore account (generally, an account maintained by you at a bank or other financial institution at any location outside the United States), you have furnished to the U.S. payor documentation that establishes your identity and your status as a non-United States person,
 - c. the U.S. payor has received a withholding certificate (furnished on an appropriate Internal Revenue Service Form W-8 or an acceptable substitute form) from a person claiming to be:
 - i. a withholding foreign partnership (generally a foreign partnership that has entered into an agreement with the Internal Revenue Service to assume primary withholding responsibility with respect to distributions and guaranteed payments it makes to its partners),

Table of Contents

ii. a qualified intermediary (generally a non-United States financial institution or clearing organization or a non-United States branch or office of a United States financial institution or clearing organization that is a party to a withholding agreement with the Internal Revenue Service), or

iii. a U.S. branch of a non-United States bank or of a non-United States insurance company,

and the withholding foreign partnership, qualified intermediary or U.S. branch has received documentation upon which it may rely to treat the payment as made to a non-United States person in accordance with U.S. Treasury regulations (or, in the case of a qualified intermediary, in accordance with its agreement with the Internal Revenue Service),

d. the U.S. payor receives a statement from a securities clearing organization, bank or other financial institution that holds customers' securities in the ordinary course of its trade or business,

i. certifying to the U.S. payor under penalties of perjury that an Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN or an acceptable substitute form has been received from you by it or by a similar financial institution between it and you, and

ii. to which is attached a copy of the Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN or acceptable substitute form, or

e. the U.S. payor otherwise possesses documentation upon which it may rely to treat the payment as made to a non-United States person in accordance with U.S. Treasury regulations; and

no deduction for any United States federal withholding tax will be made from any gain that you realize on the sale or exchange of your note.

If you are a United States alien holder and interest paid on your note, or gain realized upon the sale or other disposition of your note, is effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business within the United States by you, you will generally be taxed on a net income basis, that is, after allowance for applicable deductions, at the graduated rates that are applicable to United States holders in essentially the same manner as if your note were held by a United States holder, as discussed above, unless such interest or gain is exempt or subject to reduced tax pursuant to an applicable income tax treaty and you are entitled to such treaty benefits. If you are a United States alien holder that is a corporation, such income may also be subject to the United States federal branch profits tax, which is generally imposed on a foreign corporation upon the deemed repatriation from the United States of effectively connected earnings and profits, at a 30% rate, unless the rate is reduced or eliminated by an applicable income tax treaty and you are a qualified resident of the treaty country.

Further, a note held by an individual who at death is not a citizen or resident of the United States will not be includible in the individual's gross estate for United States federal estate tax purposes if:

the decedent did not actually or constructively own 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of RR Donnelley entitled to vote at the time of death and

the income on the note would not have been effectively connected with a United States trade or businesses of the decedent at the same time.

Backup Withholding and Information Reporting

In general, if you are a non-corporate United States holder, we and other payors are required to report to the Internal Revenue Service all payments of principal and interest on your note. In addition, we and other payors are required to report to the Internal Revenue Service any payment of proceeds of the sale of your note before maturity within the United States. Additionally, backup withholding will apply to any payments if you fail to provide an accurate taxpayer identification number, or you are notified by the Internal Revenue Service that you have failed to report all interest and dividends required to be shown on your federal income tax returns.

Table of Contents

In general, if you are a United States alien holder, payments of principal or interest made by us and other payors to you will not be subject to backup withholding and information reporting, provided that the certification requirements described above under United States Alien Holders are satisfied or you otherwise establish an exemption. However, we and other payors are required to report payments of interest on your notes on Internal Revenue Service Form 1042-S even if the payments are not otherwise subject to information reporting requirements. In addition, payment of the proceeds from the sale of notes effected at a United States office of a broker will not be subject to backup withholding and information reporting provided that:

the broker does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a United States person and you have furnished to the broker:

1. an appropriate Internal Revenue Service Form W-8 or an acceptable substitute form upon which you certify, under penalties of perjury, that you are not a United States person, or
2. other documentation upon which it may rely to treat the payment as made to a non-United States person in accordance with U.S. Treasury regulations, or

you otherwise establish an exemption.

If you fail to establish an exemption and the broker does not possess adequate documentation of your status as a non-United States person, the payments may be subject to information reporting and backup withholding. However, backup withholding will not apply with respect to payments made to an offshore account maintained by you unless the broker has actual knowledge that you are a United States person.

In general, payment of the proceeds from the sale of notes effected at a foreign office of a broker will not be subject to information reporting or backup withholding. However, a sale effected at a foreign office of a broker will be subject to information reporting and backup withholding if:

the proceeds are transferred to an account maintained by you in the United States,

the payment of proceeds or the confirmation of the sale is mailed to you at a United States address, or

the sale has some other specified connection with the United States as provided in U.S. Treasury regulations, unless the broker does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a United States person and the documentation requirements described above (relating to a sale of notes effected at a United States office of a broker) are met or you otherwise establish an exemption.

In addition, payment of the proceeds from the sale of notes effected at a foreign office of a broker will be subject to information reporting if the broker is:

a United States person,

a controlled foreign corporation for United States tax purposes,

Edgar Filing: RR Donnelley & Sons Co - Form 424B5

a foreign person 50% or more of whose gross income is effectively connected with the conduct of a United States trade or business for a specified three-year period, or

a foreign partnership, if at any time during its tax year:

1. one or more of its partners are U.S. persons, as defined in U.S. Treasury regulations, who in the aggregate hold more than 50% of the income or capital interest in the partnership, or

2. such foreign partnership is engaged in the conduct of a United States trade or business, unless the broker does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a United States person and the documentation requirements described above (relating to a sale of notes effected at a United States office of a broker) are met or you otherwise establish an exemption. Backup withholding will apply if the sale is subject to information reporting and the broker has actual knowledge that you are a United States person.

S-32

Table of Contents**UNDERWRITING**

We are offering the notes described in this prospectus supplement through a number of underwriters. Banc of America Securities LLC, Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. are the representatives of the underwriters. We have entered into a firm commitment underwriting agreement with the representatives. Subject to the terms and conditions of the underwriting agreement, we have agreed to sell to the underwriters, and each underwriter has severally agreed to purchase, the aggregate principal amount of notes listed next to its name in the following table.

Underwriter	Principal Amount of Notes
Banc of America Securities LLC	\$
Citigroup Global Markets Inc.	
J.P. Morgan Securities Inc.	
 Total	 \$

The underwriting agreement is subject to a number of terms and conditions and provides that the underwriters must buy all of the notes if they buy any of them. The underwriters will sell the notes to the public when and if the underwriters buy the notes from us.

The underwriters have advised us that they propose initially to offer the notes to the public for cash at the public offering price set forth on the cover of this prospectus supplement, and to certain dealers at such price less a concession not in excess of % of the principal amount of the notes. The underwriters may allow, and such dealers may reallocate, a concession not in excess of % of the principal amount of the notes to certain other dealers. After the public offering of the notes, the public offering price and other selling terms may be changed.

We estimate that our share of the total expenses of the offering, excluding underwriting discount, will be approximately \$500,000.

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against, or contribute to payments that the underwriters may be required to make in respect of, certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933.

The notes are a new issue of securities with no established trading market. The notes will not be listed on any securities exchange or on any automated dealer quotation system. The underwriters may make a market in the notes after completion of the offering, but will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market-making activities at any time without notice. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of the trading market for the notes or that an active public market for the notes will develop. If an active public market for the notes does not develop, the market price and liquidity of the notes may be adversely affected.

In connection with the offering of the notes, the representatives may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of the notes. Specifically, the representatives may overallocate in connection with the offering, creating a short position. In addition, the representatives may bid for, and purchase, the notes in the open market to cover short positions or to stabilize the price of the notes. Any of these activities may stabilize or maintain the market price of the notes above independent market levels, but no representation is made hereby of the magnitude of any effect that the transactions described above may have on the market price of the notes. The representatives will not be required to engage in these activities, and may engage in these activities, and may end any of these activities, at any time without notice.

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a Relevant Member State), each underwriter has represented and agreed 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 notes to the public in that Relevant Member State prior to the publication of a prospectus in relation to the notes which has been approved

Table of Contents

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 notes to the public in that Relevant Member State at any time:

(a) 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;

(b) 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 EUR 43,000,000 and (3) an annual net turnover of more than EUR 50,000,000, as shown in its last annual or consolidated accounts; or

(c) 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 purpose of this provision, the expression an offer of notes to the public in relation to any notes 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 notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe to the notes, 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 underwriter has represented and agreed that:

(a) it has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA)) received by it in connection with the issue or sale of the notes in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the FSMA would not, if the Issuer was not an authorized person, apply to the Issuer; and

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

Affiliates of each of the underwriters are lenders under our senior revolving credit facility, and therefore, will receive proceeds from the offering to the extent of their portion of the proceeds used to repay borrowings under that facility. The underwriters and certain of their affiliates have provided from time to time, and may provide in the future, investment and commercial banking (including acting as lenders under our senior revolving credit facility described above) and financial advisory services to us and our affiliates in the ordinary course of business, for which they have received and may continue to receive customary fees and commissions. In the ordinary course of their business, the underwriters and their affiliates may actively trade or hold the securities or our loans for their own accounts or for the accounts of customers and, accordingly, may at any time hold long or short positions in these securities or loans. In addition, from time to time, as a result of market-making activities, the underwriters may own debt securities issued by us or our affiliates.

Table of Contents

VALIDITY OF THE NOTES

The validity of the notes will be passed upon for us by Sullivan & Cromwell LLP. Certain legal matters will be passed upon for the underwriters by Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements incorporated in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus by reference from the R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company Annual Report on Form 10-K, as amended by Amendment No. 1 and Amendment No. 2 on Form 10-K/A filed on May 6, 2008, for the year ended December 31, 2007, and the effectiveness of R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company's internal control over financial reporting have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports (which reports on the consolidated financial statements and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting express unqualified opinions and include an explanatory paragraph relating to the Company's adoption of the provisions of Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Interpretation No. 48, *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes - an Interpretation of FASB Statement No. 109*, on January 1, 2007, which clarifies the accounting for and disclosure of uncertain tax positions; and relating to the Company's early adoption, on January 1, 2007, of the fiscal year-end measurement date provision and on December 31, 2006, the recognition and disclosure provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 158, *Employers' Accounting for Defined Benefit Pension and Other Postretirement Plans - an amendment of FASB Statements No. 87, 88, 106, and 132R*, which changed the method of accounting for pension and postretirement benefits as of December 31, 2006) dated February 27, 2008, which are incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements have been so incorporated in reliance upon the reports of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents

R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company

Debt Securities

Warrants

Purchase Contracts

Units

Preferred Stock

Depository Shares

Common Stock

R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company from time to time may offer to sell debt securities, warrants, and purchase contracts, either individually or in units, as well as preferred stock, either separately or represented by depository shares, and common stock. The debt securities may be senior or subordinated to other indebtedness of R.R. Donnelley. The debt securities may be convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for common or preferred stock or other securities of R.R. Donnelley. Any preferred stock or depository shares issued may also be convertible into common stock or another series of preferred stock or depository shares or convertible into or exchangeable for other securities. R.R. Donnelley's common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, the Toronto Stock Exchange and the Chicago Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol RRD. Our common stock is also currently listed on NYSE Arca, Inc., but we have submitted a proposal for withdrawal from that listing.

R.R. Donnelley may offer and sell these securities to or through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents, or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis.

The specific terms of any securities to be offered will be provided in supplements to this prospectus.

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

Prospectus dated January 3, 2007.

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We are required to file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any documents filed by us at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room. Our filings with the SEC are also available to the public through the SEC's Internet site at <http://www.sec.gov>.

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-3 relating to the securities covered by this prospectus. This prospectus is a part of the registration statement and does not contain all the information in the registration statement. Whenever a reference is made in this prospectus to a contract or other document of the Company, the reference is only a summary and you should refer to the exhibits that are a part of the registration statement for a copy of the contract or other document. You may review a copy of the registration statement at the SEC's public reference room in Washington, D.C., as well as through the SEC's Internet site.

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC's rules allow us to incorporate by reference information into this prospectus. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document. Any information referred to in this way is considered part of this prospectus from the date we file that document. Any reports filed by us with the SEC after the date of this prospectus and before the date that the offering of the securities by means of this prospectus is terminated will automatically update and, where applicable, supersede any information contained in this prospectus or incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

We incorporate by reference into this prospectus the following documents or information filed with the SEC (other than, in each case, documents or information deemed to have been furnished and not filed in accordance with SEC rules):

- (1) Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005;
- (2) Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarterly periods ended March 31, 2006, June 30, 2006 and September 30, 2006;
- (3) Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on February 22, 2006 (with respect to Items 5.03 and 9.01), March 1, 2006, March 23, 2006, April 27, 2006 (with respect to Item 5.02), June 5, 2006, June 14, 2006, July 7, 2006, July 19, 2006, August 18, 2006, October 13, 2006, November 1, 2006, December 21, 2006 and December 22, 2006;
- (4) All documents filed by the Company under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 on or after the date of this prospectus and before the termination of this offering.

We will provide without charge to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom this prospectus is delivered, upon his or her written or oral request, a copy of any or all documents referred to above which have been or may be incorporated by reference into this prospectus excluding exhibits to those documents unless they are specifically incorporated by reference into those documents. You can obtain those documents from our website at www.rrdonnelley.com or request them in writing or by telephone at the following address or telephone number:

R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company

111 South Wacker Drive

Chicago, Illinois 60606-4301

Telephone: (866) 425-8272

Table of Contents

THE COMPANY

RR Donnelley is the world's premier full-service provider of print and related services, including business process outsourcing. Founded more than 140 years ago, the Company provides solutions in commercial printing, direct mail, financial printing, print fulfillment, labels, forms, logistics, call centers, transactional print-and-mail, print management, online services, digital photography, color services, and content and database management to customers in the publishing, healthcare, advertising, retail, technology, financial services and many other industries. The largest companies in the world and others rely on RR Donnelley's scale, scope and insight through a comprehensive range of online tools, variable printing services and market-specific solutions.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements incorporated in this prospectus by reference from the R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company Current Report on Form 8-K filed December 22, 2006, and related financial statement schedule and management's report on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting incorporated in this prospectus by reference from the R. R. Donnelley & Sons Company Annual Report on Form 10-K, have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports (which report on the consolidated financial statements expresses an unqualified opinion and includes an explanatory paragraph relating to the Company's acquisition on February 27, 2004 of all outstanding shares of Moore Wallace Incorporated) dated March 1, 2006 (December 22, 2006 as to references in segment information in Notes 4, 5 and 20), which are incorporated herein by reference, and have been so incorporated in reliance upon the reports of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents

\$

R.R. DONNELLEY & SONS COMPANY

% Notes due 2019

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

January , 2009

Joint Book-Running Managers

Banc of America Securities LLC

Citi

J.P. Morgan