

A123 SYSTEMS, INC.
Form 424B3
July 09, 2012
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**Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3)
Registration No. 333-181778**

PROSPECTUS

49,602,469 Shares

A123 SYSTEMS, INC.

COMMON STOCK

This prospectus relates to the offer and resale by the selling stockholders identified in this prospectus of up to an aggregate of 49,602,469 shares of our common stock. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of the common stock by the selling stockholders.

The selling stockholders identified in this prospectus may offer the shares from time to time through public or private transactions at prevailing market prices or at privately negotiated prices.

We have agreed to pay certain expenses in connection with the registration of the shares. The selling stockholders will pay all underwriting discounts and selling commissions, if any, in connection with the sale of the shares.

Our common stock is listed on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol AONE. On July 5, 2012, the last sale price of our common stock as reported on The NASDAQ Global Select Market was \$1.30.

Investing in our common stock involves risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page 8 of this prospectus.

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

The date of this prospectus is July 6, 2012.

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You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or in any related free writing prospectus filed by us with the SEC. We and the selling stockholders have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. This prospectus does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities other than the securities described in this prospectus or an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy such securities in any circumstances in which such offer or solicitation is unlawful. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus, the documents incorporated by reference and any related free writing prospectus is accurate only as of their respective dates. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed materially since those dates.

We further note that the representations, warranties and covenants made by us in any agreement that is filed as an exhibit to any document that is incorporated by reference in this prospectus were made solely for the benefit of the parties to such agreement, including, in some cases, for the purpose of allocating risk among the parties to such agreements, and should not be deemed to be a representation, warranty or covenant to you. Moreover, such representations, warranties or covenants were accurate only as of the date when made. Accordingly, such representations, warranties and covenants should not be relied on as accurately representing the current state of our affairs.

Unless the context otherwise indicates, references in this prospectus to A123, we, our and us refer, collectively, to A123 Systems, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and its consolidated subsidiaries.

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SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

This prospectus and the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus include forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act. These statements are often identified by the use of words such as may, expect, believe, anticipate, intend, estimate, or continue, and similar expressions or variations. All statements other than statements of historical fact are statements that could be deemed forward-looking statements, including without limitation statements regarding industry trends, management's expectations, competitive strengths or market position, market expectations, business opportunities, projections of revenue, expenses, profits, management's confidence in our strategies and other matters that do not relate strictly to historical facts. Such forward-looking statements are subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors that could cause actual results and the timing of certain events to differ materially from future results expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences include, but are not limited to, those discussed under the heading Risk Factors in any of our filings with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act. The forward-looking statements in this prospectus and the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus represent our views as of the date such statements are made. While we may elect to update such forward-looking statements at some point in the future, we disclaim any obligation to do so, even if subsequent events cause our views to change. These forward-looking statements should not be relied upon as representing our views as of any date subsequent to the date such statements are made.

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PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

*This summary highlights selected information appearing elsewhere in this prospectus or in documents incorporated herein by reference. This summary is not complete and does not contain all of the information that you should consider before making your investment decision. You should carefully read the entire prospectus, including the information set forth in the section entitled *Risk Factors* and the information that is incorporated by reference into this prospectus. See the sections entitled *Available Information* and *Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference* for a further discussion on incorporation by reference.*

The Company

We design, develop, manufacture and sell advanced, rechargeable lithium-ion batteries and energy storage systems. We believe that lithium-ion batteries will play an increasingly important role in facilitating a shift toward cleaner forms of energy. Using our innovative approach to materials science and battery engineering and our systems integration and manufacturing capabilities, we have developed a broad family of high-power lithium-ion batteries and battery systems. This family of products, combined with our strategic partner relationships in the transportation, electric grid services and commercial markets, positions us well to address these markets for next-generation energy storage solutions.

Recent Developments

Field Campaign to Replace Prismatic Cells

On March 26, 2012, we launched a field campaign to replace battery modules and packs that may contain defective prismatic cells produced at our Livonia, Michigan manufacturing facility. The cost of this field campaign was estimated at \$51.6 million. In addition, we recorded an inventory charge of approximately \$15.2 million related to inventory produced at our Michigan facilities that may be defective. As a result of this field campaign and the charge for existing prismatic cell inventory, we have begun to rebuild our inventory and manage our backlog for existing customer orders while simultaneously replacing the defective customer modules and packs. Therefore, we expect to continue to incur significant net losses and negative operating cash flows over the next several quarters.

Revolving Credit Facility Amendment

On May 11, 2012, we amended our revolving credit facility with our lead bank. This amendment eliminates the borrowing facility and provides for up to \$15.0 million as security for letters of credit. All outstanding letters of credit are required to be cash collateralized at 105% of their face amount.

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Offering of Units of Common Stock and Warrants

In January 2012, we raised \$25.4 million through the issuance of 12,500,000 units in a registered direct offering. Each unit consists of one share of our common stock and one warrant to purchase one share of such common stock at a purchase price of \$2.034 per unit. The per share exercise price of the warrants is \$2.71. The warrants may be exercised beginning on the date that is six months and one day after the initial closing date, and will expire twenty-four months after the date on which they become exercisable.

Subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions, including obtaining, on or prior to June 29, 2012, the effectiveness of the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part and the maintaining of certain trading volume and trading price requirements, at any time during both:

- the ten (10) trading days beginning on June 18, 2012 and

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- the ten (10) trading days beginning on July 23, 2012,

we have the option to require the investor to purchase up to an additional 6,250,000 shares of our common stock during each such period at a price equal to 90% of the lesser of

- the volume weighted average price, or vwap, on the date of exercise, or
- the arithmetic average of the daily vwap for the ten (10) consecutive trading days ending on the date of exercise.

If we are not able to satisfy the required conditions during each option period, we will not be able to require the investor to purchase the additional shares and we will receive no proceeds therefrom. In addition, if the arithmetic average of the daily vwaps during the 30 trading days prior to the sale of common stock pursuant to each additional sale option is less than \$1.00, or if the arithmetic average of the daily trading volumes of the common stock during the 30 trading days prior to the sale of common stock pursuant to each additional sale option is less than 1,500,000 shares, the number of shares subject to each additional sale option may be reduced or eliminated.

We did not meet the required conditions during the first option period and therefore did not exercise the purchase right described above.

Offering of Convertible Notes and Warrants

On May 24, 2012, we closed the sale to the accredited investors named under *Selling Stockholders* of \$50.0 million aggregate principal amount of our 6.00% senior convertible notes, or the Notes, and warrants to purchase shares of our common stock, or the Warrants, equal to 30% of the number of shares underlying the Notes assuming conversion at the initial conversion price.

Conversion. The Notes are convertible, at the selling stockholders' option, into shares of our common stock, initially at a fixed conversion price of \$1.18 per share, subject to certain adjustments. The selling stockholders also have the right at any time, and from time to time, after August 15, 2012, to elect to convert up to \$30.0 million aggregate principal amount of Notes at a price equal to 85% of the closing price of our common stock on the trading day immediately preceding the conversion date; provided, however, that the selling stockholders may not convert more than \$3.5 million aggregate principal amount of the Notes on any given trading date. The Notes may not be converted if, after giving effect to the conversion, the selling stockholders together with their affiliates would beneficially own in excess of 4.99% of the outstanding shares of our common stock. This maximum percentage may be raised to any other percentage not in excess of 9.99% at the option of the selling stockholders, upon at least 61-days' prior notice to us, or lowered to any other percentage, at the option of the selling stockholders at any time.

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On June 15, 2012 and July 1, 2012, we made aggregate amortization payments under the Notes of approximately \$5.7 million. If the remaining principal amount of Notes outstanding were converted on the date of this prospectus at the current conversion price of \$1.18, we would be required to issue approximately 37.5 million shares of common stock. In addition, the

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Warrants are initially exercisable for approximately 12.7 million shares of common stock. Pursuant to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, we are registering under the Securities Act 49,602,469 shares of our common stock issuable upon conversion of the Notes, including conversion in connection with monthly principal payments on the Notes or payment of interest on the Notes. As of June 26, 2012, there were 147,141,066 shares of our common stock outstanding.

Shareholder Approval. On June 29, 2012, we received shareholder approval for the issuance of shares of our common stock upon conversion of the Notes, including conversion in connection with monthly principal payments on the Notes or payment of interest on the Notes, and exercise of the Warrants, as required by NASDAQ rules. Our shareholders also authorized an increase in the number of authorized shares of our common stock from 250,000,000 shares to 650,000,000 million shares in connection with such approval.

Please see *Private Placement of Notes and Warrants* for a further description of our offering of Notes and Warrants, including a description of certain covenants we agreed to in connection with the Notes that may make it more difficult to obtain additional financing in the future.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

As of May 31, 2012, our cash and cash equivalents were approximately \$68 million. At that time, we also had approximately \$40 million of restricted cash. Included in this \$40 million is approximately \$10 million related to collateralizing of letters of credit as noted above, as well as \$30 million related to the Notes and Warrants described in this prospectus that is subject to an account control agreement.

Pursuant to our agreements with the holders of the Notes and credit facility provider, we must maintain a minimum cash balance of \$40.0 million. Upon the effectiveness of the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part and an additional registration statement that we filed on July 2, 2012, we expect \$30 million of restricted cash will become unrestricted and available for general corporate purposes. On July 5, 2012, we notified the holders of the Notes that we had fulfilled the conditions under the account control agreement to the release of the \$30 million of proceeds from the Notes and Warrants from the control account. We expect that the \$30 million will become unrestricted and available for general corporate purposes subject to the delivery of administrative release documentation on or about July 6, 2012. During the five months ended May 31, 2012, we used on average \$18 to \$25 million per month in net operating and investing cash flows. Assuming the \$30 million of restricted cash discussed above becomes unrestricted and available for general corporate purposes, and that our historical monthly use of cash continues, as of May 31, 2012, we expect to have approximately four to five months of cash to support our ongoing operations.

We are considering a broad set of solutions to improve our liquidity, including measures to reduce costs and improve efficiency, accessing additional sources of capital through existing and potentially new arrangements, and other strategic options. If successful, we believe that we will have sufficient liquidity to manage operations into 2013.

Although our intent is to improve our operating efficiencies and to obtain additional financing, there is no assurance that we will be able to obtain such financing on favorable terms, if at all, or to successfully further reduce costs in such a way that would continue to allow us to operate our business.

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The above circumstances, along with our history and near term forecast of incurring significant net losses and negative operating cash flows, raise substantial doubt on our ability to continue as a going concern.

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Corporate Information

Our principal executive offices are located at 200 West Street, Waltham, Massachusetts 02451, and our telephone number is (617) 778-5700.

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The Offering

Common stock offered by the selling stockholders	Up to 49,602,469 shares
Common stock outstanding	147,141,066 shares (as of June 26, 2012)
Terms of the offering	The selling stockholders will determine when and how they sell the common stock offered in this prospectus, as described in Plan of Distribution.
Use of proceeds	We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of the shares of common stock being offered under this prospectus. See Use of Proceeds.
NASDAQ symbol	Our common stock is listed on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol AONE.
Risk factors	You should read the Risk Factors section of this prospectus for a discussion of factors to consider carefully before deciding to invest in shares of our common stock.

On May 23, 2012, we entered into an amended and restated securities purchase agreement, or the Purchase Agreement, with the selling stockholders. Pursuant to the Purchase Agreement, we sold to the selling stockholders \$50.0 million aggregate principal amount of the Notes and Warrants to purchase shares of our common stock. In connection with the Purchase Agreement, we also entered into a registration rights agreement, or the Registration Rights Agreement, with the selling stockholders. Pursuant to the Registration Rights Agreement, we agreed to file one or more registration statements, including the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, as permissible and necessary to register under the Securities Act the sale of the shares of our common stock that may be issued to the selling stockholders upon conversion of the Notes, payment of principal of and interest on the Notes and exercise of the Warrants. For more information, see Private Placement of Notes and Warrants.

Pursuant to the Registration Rights Agreement, we are registering under the Securities Act 49,602,469 shares of our common stock issuable upon conversion of the Notes, including conversion in connection with monthly principal payments on the Notes or payment of interest on the Notes.

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RISK FACTORS

Investment in any securities offered pursuant to this prospectus involves risks. Before making an investment decision, you should carefully consider the specific risks described below and under the caption "Risk Factors" in any of our filings with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, which are incorporated herein by reference. Each of such risks could adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects, and could result in a complete loss of your investment. For more information, see "Where You Can Find More Information."

Risks Resulting From Our Private Placement of Notes and Warrants

Substantial leverage and debt service obligations may adversely affect our cash flows.

In connection with the sale of the Notes to the selling stockholders, we incurred new indebtedness of \$50.0 million. As a result, as of March 31, 2012, after giving effect to the issuance of the Notes, we would have had an aggregate of approximately \$193.0 million of outstanding debt. The degree to which we are leveraged could, among other things:

- require us to dedicate a substantial portion of our future cash flows from operations and other capital resources to debt service, to the extent we are unable to make payments of principal or interest on the Notes in common stock, due to, among other things, failure to satisfy the equity conditions that must be met to enable us to do so;
- make it difficult for us to obtain necessary financing in the future for working capital, acquisitions or other purposes on favorable terms, if at all;
- make it more difficult for us to be acquired;
- make us more vulnerable to industry downturns and competitive pressures; and
- limit our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes in our business.

Our ability to meet our debt service obligations will depend upon our future performance, which will be subject to financial, business and other factors affecting our operations, many of which are beyond our control.

We could be required to make substantial cash payments upon an event of default or change of control under the Notes.

The Notes provide for events of default including, among others, payment defaults, cross-defaults, breaches of any representation, warranty or covenant that is not cured within the proper time periods, failure to perform certain required activities in a timely manner, suspension from trading or failure of our common stock to be listed on an eligible market for certain periods and certain bankruptcy-type events involving us or any significant subsidiary. Upon an event of default, the selling stockholders may elect to require us to redeem all or any portion of the outstanding principal amount of such notes at a price equal to the greater of:

- either 125% or 100%, depending on the type of event of default, of the principal amount being redeemed; and
- the product of the principal amount being redeemed multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is the greatest closing sale price of our common stock on any trading day during the period starting on the date immediately preceding the event of default and ending on the day we pay the redemption amount for the Notes, and the denominator of which is the conversion price (as defined in the Notes) at the time the selling stockholder elects to have the Notes redeemed.

In addition, under the terms of the Notes, upon a change of control, the selling stockholders may elect to require us to redeem all or a portion of the Notes at a price equal to 100% of the greater of:

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- the sum of such principal amount being redeemed, plus all accrued but unpaid interest, and a make-whole amount; or
- the product of:
- such principal amount being redeemed, plus all accrued but unpaid interest, multiplied by
- the quotient determined by dividing (x) the greatest closing sale price of our common stock during the period beginning on the date immediately preceding the earlier of the consummation or public announcement of such change of control and ending on the date the holder elects to require us to redeem all or a portion of the Notes, by (y) the lowest conversion price of the Notes in effect during such period.

If either an event of default or change of control occurs, our available cash could be seriously depleted and our ability to fund operations could be materially harmed. See Private Placement of Notes and Warrants for a detailed description of the Notes.

We are responsible for having the resale of the common stock underlying the Notes and the Warrants registered with the SEC within defined time periods. We will be subject to an obligation to redeem up to \$30 million aggregate principal amount of Notes and will incur liquidated damages if the common stock is not registered with the SEC within those defined time periods.

Pursuant to the Registration Rights Agreement, we are obligated to use our reasonable best efforts to:

- cause this registration statement covering the resale of 49,602,469 shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of the Notes, including conversion in connection with monthly principal payments on the Notes, or upon payment of interest on the Notes, to be declared effective by July 23, 2012 (or by August 7, 2012 if the SEC reviews such registration statement) following the closing of the private placement;
- cause a subsequent registration statement that we filed on July 2, 2012 covering the resale of an additional 250,397,531 shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of the Notes, including conversion in connection with monthly principal payments on the Notes or upon payment of interest on the Notes, or upon exercise of the Warrants to be declared effective by August 20, 2012; and
- keep the registration statements effective until the earlier of (x) the date all of the securities covered by the registration statement may be sold without restriction or limitation under Rule 144 promulgated under the Securities Act and without the requirement to comply with Rule 144(c)(1) and (y) the date all of the securities covered by the registration statement have been sold.

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If we fail to comply with these or certain other provisions, then we will be required to pay liquidated damages. Any such payments could materially affect our ability to fund operations.

In addition, we deposited \$30.0 million of the expected proceeds from the Notes into a bank account subject to an account control agreement that will be released upon:

- our obtaining, on or prior to June 30, 2012, shareholder approval, or the Shareholder Approval, of:
- the issuance of shares of our common stock in connection with the conversion of the Notes, the payment of principal of and interest on the Notes, and exercise of the Warrants; and

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- an increase in the authorized number of shares of our common stock; and
- our obtaining, on or prior to the deadlines described below, the effectiveness, or the Registration Statement Effectiveness, of one or more registration statements covering the shares of common stock underlying the Notes and the Warrants, including the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

If the Registration Statement Effectiveness has not been achieved by:

- August 15, 2012, with respect to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part; or
- August 20, 2012, with respect to the subsequent registration statement that we filed on July 2, 2012 covering the remainder of the common stock underlying the Notes and the common stock underlying the Warrants;

then the selling stockholders will have the right to require us to redeem all or any portion of \$30.0 million aggregate principal amount of Notes at a price equal to 100% of the principal amount being redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest, from the proceeds in the control account.

The \$30.0 million of proceeds subject to the account control agreement will not be available to us prior to our obtaining the Registration Statement Effectiveness. On July 5, 2012, we notified the holders of the Notes that we had fulfilled the conditions under the account control agreement to the release of the \$30 million of proceeds from the Notes and Warrants from the control account. We expect that the \$30 million will become unrestricted and available for general corporate purposes subject to the delivery of administrative release documentation on or about July 6, 2012.

We have also entered into a security agreement with the selling stockholders representative pursuant to which the proceeds in the control account were pledged for the benefit of the selling stockholders until the proceeds in the control account are released to us as described above.

The Notes contain various covenants and restrictions which may limit our ability to operate our business.

The Notes contain certain covenants and restrictions, including, among others, that, for so long as the Notes are outstanding, we will not, and we will not permit any of our subsidiaries to:

- incur any indebtedness (other than permitted indebtedness under the Notes);

- permit liens on our properties (other than permitted liens under the Notes);
- redeem or repurchase equity interests;
- repay certain indebtedness in cash if an event of default has occurred or where to occur;
- declare or pay cash dividends;
- transfer certain assets; or
- make or agree to make capital expenditures above \$35.0 million for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012.

We have also agreed to maintain on deposit cash in an aggregate amount equal to not less than \$40.0 million. These restrictions could limit our ability to plan for or react to market conditions or meet extraordinary capital needs or otherwise restrict corporate activities, any of which could have a material adverse impact on our business. See [Private Placement of Notes and Warrants](#) for a more detailed description of the Notes.

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USE OF PROCEEDS

We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of shares by the selling stockholders.

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PRIVATE PLACEMENT OF NOTES AND WARRANTS

Pursuant to the Purchase Agreement, on May 24, 2012, we sold to the selling stockholders \$50.0 million aggregate principal amount of the Notes (at face amount) and Warrants to purchase 12,711,864 shares of our common stock, subject to certain adjustments, for an aggregate purchase price of \$50.0 million. We paid fees and expenses of approximately \$2.9 million, including \$135,000 to reimburse the legal fees and expenses of the selling stockholders incurred in connection with the transaction. Accordingly, the net proceeds to us were \$47.1 million.

Description of the Notes

Subject to the control account and security agreement described below, the Notes will be *pari passu* in right of payment with all of our existing and future unsecured senior indebtedness and will be senior in right of payment to any of our future subordinated indebtedness.

Principal, Maturity and Interest

We issued \$50.0 million aggregate principal amount of the Notes. The Notes bear interest at a rate of 6.00% per year, subject to certain adjustments, and mature on July 15, 2013.

Conversion

The Notes are convertible, at the selling stockholders' option, into shares of our common stock, initially at a fixed conversion price of \$1.18 per share, subject to certain adjustments.

The selling stockholders will have the right at any time, and from time to time, after August 15, 2012, to elect to convert up to \$30.0 million aggregate principal amount of Notes at a price equal to 85% of the closing price of our common stock on the trading day immediately preceding the conversion date; provided, however, that the selling stockholders may not convert more than \$3.5 million aggregate principal amount of the Notes on any given trading date.

The Notes may not be converted if, after giving effect to the conversion, the selling stockholders together with their affiliates would beneficially own in excess of 4.99% of the outstanding shares of our common stock, or the Maximum Percentage. The Maximum Percentage may be raised to any other percentage not in excess of 9.99% at the option of the selling stockholders, upon at least 61-days' prior notice to us, or lowered to any other percentage, at the option of the selling stockholders at any time.

Amortization

We are required to repay the Notes in twenty-seven semi-monthly installments, commencing on June 15, 2012 and thereafter on the 1st and 15th of each month, each such date, an Installment Date. The amortization payment on each Installment Date is 1/29th of the principal amount of the Notes, subject to certain adjustments, provided that the amortization payment on the June 15, 2012, July 1, 2012 and July 15, 2012 Installment Dates will be 1 2/3 times the amortization payment on the other Installment Dates.

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Settlement of Interest, Amortization or Redemption Payments in Common Stock

We have the right to make interest or amortization payments and redemption payments in shares of our common stock, subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions, or elect to pay in cash. Among these conditions:

- there must be an effective registration statement covering such shares of common stock issuable under the terms of the Notes or such shares of common stock must be eligible for sale pursuant to Rule 144 under the Securities Act without the need for registration,
- the weighted average price of our common stock on each of the prior 15 trading days has not been below \$0.80; and
- the daily dollar trading volume of our common stock for each of the prior 15 trading days was at least \$750,000.

If we are not permitted to deliver shares of common stock with respect to an Installment Date due to a failure to satisfy any of the conditions, we must pay the applicable portion of the principal and interest amounts in cash, unless the conditions are waived by the selling stockholder. If the applicable conditions are satisfied, we currently intend to repay the Notes through the issuance of shares of our common stock. However, this intention may change depending on our finances at the time of the applicable Installment Date and our stock price on the applicable Installment Date.

If we make a payment in shares of common stock, the principal amount of the Notes being paid will be converted into shares of our common stock at a price per share equal to the lesser of the applicable conversion price and 82% of the Market Price of our common stock on the applicable interest date or amortization installment date. Market Price means the arithmetic average of the volume weighted average price of our common stock on each of the five trading days immediately preceding the applicable date, but in no event greater than the volume weighted average price of our common stock on the trading date immediately preceding the applicable date.

Control Account; Redemption of the Notes at the Option of the Selling Stockholders upon Certain Events

We deposited \$30.0 million of the expected proceeds from the Notes into a bank account subject to an account control agreement that will be released upon:

- Our obtaining, on or prior to June 30, 2012, the Shareholder Approval, of:

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- the issuance of shares of our common stock in connection with the conversion of the Notes, the payment of principal of and interest on the Notes, and exercise of the Warrants; and
- an increase in the number of authorized shares of our common stock from 250,000,000 shares to 650,000,000 shares; and
- our obtaining, on or prior to the deadlines described below, the effectiveness, or the Registration Statement Effectiveness, of one or more registration statements covering the shares of common stock underlying the Notes and the Warrants, including the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

If the Registration Statement Effectiveness has not been achieved by:

- August 15, 2012, with respect to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part; or

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- August 20, 2012, with respect to the subsequent registration statement covering the remainder of the common stock underlying the Notes and the common stock underlying the Warrants that we filed on July 2, 2012;

then the selling stockholders will have the right to require us to redeem all or any portion of \$30.0 million aggregate principal amount of Notes at a price equal to 100% of the principal amount being redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest, from the proceeds in the control account.

The \$30.0 million of proceeds subject to the account control agreement will not be available to us prior to our obtaining the Registration Statement Effectiveness. On July 5, 2012, we notified the holders of the Notes that we had fulfilled the conditions under the account control agreement to the release of the \$30 million of proceeds from the Notes and Warrants from the control account. We expect that the \$30 million will become unrestricted and available for general corporate purposes subject to the delivery of administrative release documentation on or about July 6, 2012.

We have also entered into a security agreement with the selling stockholders representative pursuant to which the proceeds in the control account were pledged for the benefit of the selling stockholders until the proceeds in the control account are released to us as described above.

Redemption at the Option of the Selling Stockholders upon Change in Control

In the event of a change of control (as defined in the Notes), the selling stockholders will have the option to cause us to redeem all or a portion of the Notes at a price equal to 100% of the greater of:

- the sum of such principal amount being redeemed, plus all accrued but unpaid interest, and a make-whole amount; or
- the product of:
- such principal amount being redeemed, plus all accrued but unpaid interest, multiplied by
- the quotient determined by dividing (x) the greatest closing sale price of our common stock during the period beginning on the date immediately preceding the earlier of the consummation or public announcement of such change of control and ending on the date the holder elects to require us to redeem all or a portion of the Notes, by (y) the lowest conversion price of the Notes in effect during such period.

Certain Covenants and Events of Default

The Notes contain certain covenants and restrictions, including, among others, that, for so long as the Notes are outstanding, we will not, and we will not permit any of our subsidiaries to:

- incur any indebtedness (other than permitted indebtedness under the Notes);
- permit liens on our properties (other than permitted liens under the Notes);
- redeem or repurchase equity interests;
- repay certain indebtedness in cash if an event of default has occurred or where to occur;
- declare or pay cash dividends;
- transfer certain assets; or
- make or agree to make capital expenditures above \$35.0 million for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012.

We have also agreed to maintain on deposit cash in an aggregate amount equal to not less than \$40.0 million.

Events of default under the Notes include, among other events, payment defaults, cross-defaults, breaches of any representation, warranty or covenant that is not cured within the proper time periods, failure to perform certain required activities in a timely manner, suspension from trading or failure of our common stock to be listed on

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an eligible market for certain periods and certain bankruptcy-type events involving us or any significant subsidiary. Upon an event of default, the selling stockholders may elect to require us to redeem all or any portion of the outstanding principal amount of such notes at a price equal to the greater of:

- either 125% or 100%, depending on the type of event of default, of the principal amount being redeemed; and
- the product of the principal amount being redeemed multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is the greatest closing sale price of our common stock on any trading day during the period starting on the date immediately preceding the event of default and ending on the day we pay the redemption amount for the Notes, and the denominator of which is the conversion price (as defined in the Notes) at the time the selling stockholder elects to have the Notes redeemed.

Warrants

The Warrants have a strike price equal to \$1.29 per share. In the event of a fundamental change, as defined in the Warrants, the selling stockholders are entitled to a fair value settlement for the lost option value determined on a Black-Scholes-based calculation. The Warrants may not be exercised for six months from the date of issuance. The Warrants are subject to customary anti-dilution adjustments.

The Warrants may not be exercised if, after giving effect to the exercise, the selling stockholders together with their affiliates would beneficially own in excess of the Maximum Percentage. The Maximum Percentage may be raised to any other percentage not in excess of 9.99% at the option of the holder of the Warrants, upon at least 61-days prior notice to us, or lowered to any other percentage, at the option of the selling stockholders, at any time.

Registration Rights Agreement

We entered into a Registration Rights Agreement with the selling stockholders pursuant to which we agreed to register the shares of common stock underlying the Notes and Warrants. We agreed to file the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part within 20 days after the closing of the private placement of the Notes and Warrants and filed a subsequent registration statement on July 2, 2012 to register the remainder of the common stock underlying the Notes and the shares of common stock underlying the Warrants.

If we fail to register the appropriate number of shares of common stock or fail to file the required registration statements on a timely basis, or the initial registration statement is not declared effective by July 23, 2012 (or by August 7, 2012 if reviewed by the Securities and Exchange Commission) after the date of the issuance of the Notes or maintained, or if the subsequent registration statement is not declared effective by August 20, 2012 or maintained, or if all of such registered shares of common stock cannot be sold on any date after such registration statements are declared effective, we will be required to make a cash payment to the selling stockholders equal to 2% of the then-outstanding principal amount of the Notes, and accrued but unpaid interest thereon, on the date of such failure and on every thirtieth day after such failure until such failure is cured.

Table of Contents**SELLING STOCKHOLDERS**

The shares of common stock being offered by the selling stockholders are those issuable to the selling stockholders upon conversion of the Notes and payment of principal of and interest on the Notes up to an aggregate of 49,602,469 shares of Common Stock. We are registering the shares of common stock in order to permit the selling stockholders to offer the shares for resale from time to time. Except for the ownership of the Notes and the Warrants, the selling stockholders have not had any material relationship with us within the past three years.

The table below lists the selling stockholders and other information regarding the beneficial ownership (as determined under Section 13(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and the rules and regulations thereunder) of the shares of common stock held by the selling stockholders. The second column lists the number of shares of common stock beneficially owned by each selling stockholder, based on its ownership of the Notes and the Warrants, as of June 26, 2012, assuming conversion of the Notes held by such selling stockholder on that date without regard to any limitations on conversion set forth therein, including, without limitation, the Maximum Percentage. The third column lists the shares of common stock being offered by this prospectus by each selling stockholder and (i) does not take into account any limitations on conversion of the Notes set forth therein and (ii) assumes that we will make payments of principal and interest in shares of common stock.

In accordance with the terms of the Registration Rights Agreement with the holders of the Notes and the Warrants, this prospectus generally covers the resale of 49,602,469 shares of common stock (i) issuable upon conversion of the Notes, including conversion in connection with monthly principal payments on the Notes and (ii) upon payment of interest on the Notes. Because the price at which the Notes will be converted in connection with principal and interest payments will vary based on the market price of our common stock, and the conversion price of the Notes may be adjusted, the number of shares that will actually be issued may be more or less than the number of shares being offered by this prospectus. The fourth column assumes the sale of all of the shares offered by each selling stockholder pursuant to this prospectus.

Each selling stockholder may sell all, some or none of its shares in this offering. See Plan of Distribution.

Name of Selling Stockholder	Number of Shares of Common Stock Owned Prior to Offering	Maximum Number of Shares of Common Stock to be Sold Pursuant to this Prospectus	Number of Shares of Common Stock Owned After Offering
Hudson Bay Master Fund Ltd.(1)	25,959,478(4)	32,241,605	
J.P. Morgan Omni SPC, Ltd.(2)	7,987,532(5)	9,920,494	
Tenor Special Situation Fund, L.P.(3)	1,597,506(6)	1,984,099	
Parsoon Special Situation Ltd.(3)	1,996,883(7)	2,480,123	
Tenor Opportunity Master Fund, Ltd.(3)	1,797,195(8)	2,232,111	
Aria Opportunity Fund, Ltd.(3)	599,065(9)	744,037	
Total	39,937,659(10)	49,602,469	

(1) Hudson Bay Capital Management LP, the investment manager of Hudson Bay Master Fund Ltd., has voting and investment power over these securities. Sander Gerber is the managing member of Hudson Bay Capital GP LLC, which is the general partner of Hudson Bay Capital Management LP. Sander Gerber disclaims beneficial ownership over these securities.

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(2) Hudson Bay Capital Management, L.P., the investment manager of J.P. Morgan Omni SPC, Ltd., has voting and investment power over these securities. Sander Gerber is the managing member of Hudson Bay Capital GP LLC, which is the general partner of Hudson Bay Capital Management, L.P. Sander Gerber disclaims beneficial ownership over these securities.

(3) Robin R. Shah is a Partner of Tenor Capital Management Company, L.P, which is the investment manager of Tenor Special Situation Fund, L.P., or TSF, Parsoon Special Situation Ltd., or PSS, Tenor Opportunity Master Fund, Ltd., or TMF, and Aria Opportunity Fund, Ltd., or AMF. Robin R. Shah has voting and investment power over the shares held by TSF, PSS, TMF and AMF.

(4) Excludes 8,262,712 shares issuable when the Warrants become exercisable on November 24, 2012.

(5) Excludes 2,542,373 shares issuable when the Warrants become exercisable on November 24, 2012.

(6) Excludes 508,475 shares issuable when the Warrants become exercisable on November 24, 2012.

(7) Excludes 635,593 shares issuable when the Warrants become exercisable on November 24, 2012.

(8) Excludes 572,034 shares issuable when the Warrants become exercisable on November 24, 2012.

(9) Excludes 190,677 shares issuable when the Warrants become exercisable on November 24, 2012.

(10) Excludes 12,711,864 shares issuable when the Warrants become exercisable on November 24, 2012.

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PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We are registering the shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of the Notes and payment of principal of and interest on the Notes to permit the resale of these shares of common stock by the selling stockholders from time to time after the date of this prospectus. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale by the selling stockholders of the shares of common stock. We will bear all fees and expenses incident to our obligation to register the shares of common stock.

The selling stockholders may sell all or a portion of the shares of common stock held by them and offered hereby from time to time directly or through one or more underwriters, broker-dealers or agents. If the shares of common stock are sold through underwriters or broker-dealers, the selling stockholders will be responsible for underwriting discounts or commissions or agent's commissions. The shares of common stock may be sold in one or more transactions at fixed prices, at prevailing market prices at the time of the sale, at varying prices determined at the time of sale or at negotiated prices. These sales may be effected in transactions, which may involve crosses or block transactions, pursuant to one or more of the following methods:

- on any national securities exchange or quotation service on which the securities may be listed or quoted at the time of sale;
- in the over-the-counter market;
- in transactions otherwise than on these exchanges or systems or in the over-the-counter market;
- through the writing or settlement of options, whether such options are listed on an options exchange or otherwise;
- ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which the broker-dealer solicits purchasers;
- block trades in which the broker-dealer will attempt to sell the shares as agent but may position and resell a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction;
- purchases by a broker-dealer as principal and resale by the broker-dealer for its account;
- an exchange distribution in accordance with the rules of the applicable exchange;

- privately negotiated transactions;
- short sales;
- broker-dealers may agree with a selling securityholder to sell a specified number of such shares at a stipulated price per share;
- a combination of any such methods of sale; and
- any other method permitted pursuant to applicable law.

The selling stockholders may also sell shares of common stock under Rule 144 promulgated under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, if available, rather than under this prospectus. In addition, the selling stockholders may transfer the shares of common stock by other means not described in this prospectus. If the selling stockholders effect such transactions by selling shares of common stock to or through underwriters, broker-dealers or agents, such underwriters, broker-dealers or agents may receive commissions in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the selling stockholders or commissions from purchasers of the shares of common stock for whom they may act as agent or to whom they may sell as principal (which discounts, concessions or commissions as to particular underwriters, broker-dealers or agents may be in excess of those customary in the types of transactions involved). In connection with sales of the shares of common stock or otherwise, the selling stockholders may enter into hedging transactions with broker-dealers, which may in turn engage in short sales of the shares of common stock in the course of hedging in positions they assume. The selling stockholders may also sell

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shares of common stock short and deliver shares of common stock covered by this prospectus to close out short positions and to return borrowed shares in connection with such short sales. The selling stockholders may also loan or pledge shares of common stock to broker-dealers that in turn may sell such shares.

The selling stockholders may pledge or grant a security interest in some or all of the Notes, Warrants or shares of common stock owned by them and, if they default in the performance of their secured obligations, the pledgees or secured parties may offer and sell the shares of common stock from time to time pursuant to this prospectus or any amendment to this prospectus under Rule 424(b)(3) or other applicable provision of the Securities Act amending, if necessary, the list of selling stockholders to include the pledgee, transferee or other successors in interest as selling stockholders under this prospectus. The selling stockholders also may transfer and donate the shares of common stock in other circumstances in which case the transferees, donees, pledgees or other successors in interest will be the selling beneficial owners for purposes of this prospectus.

To the extent required by the Securities Act and the rules and regulations thereunder, the selling stockholders and any broker-dealer participating in the distribution of the shares of common stock may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act, and any commission paid, or any discounts or concessions allowed to, any such broker-dealer may be deemed to be underwriting commissions or discounts under the Securities Act. At the time a particular offering of the shares of common stock is made, a prospectus supplement, if required, will be distributed, which will set forth the aggregate amount of shares of common stock being offered and the terms of the offering, including the name or names of any broker-dealers or agents, any discounts, commissions and other terms constituting compensation from the selling stockholders and any discounts, commissions or concessions allowed or re-allowed or paid to broker-dealers.

Under the securities laws of some states, the shares of common stock may be sold in such states only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers. In addition, in some states the shares of common stock may not be sold unless such shares have been registered or qualified for sale in such state or an exemption from registration or qualification is available and is complied with.

There can be no assurance that the selling stockholders will sell any or all of the shares of common stock registered pursuant to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

The selling stockholders and any other person participating in such distribution will be subject to applicable provisions of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and the rules and regulations thereunder, including, without limitation, to the extent applicable, Regulation M of the Exchange Act, which may limit the timing of purchases and sales of any of the shares of common stock by the selling stockholders and any other participating person. To the extent applicable, Regulation M may also restrict the ability of any person engaged in the distribution of the shares of common stock to engage in market-making activities with respect to the shares of common stock. All of the foregoing may affect the marketability of the shares of common stock and the ability of any person or entity to engage in market-making activities with respect to the shares of common stock.

We will pay all expenses of the registration of the shares of common stock pursuant to the registration rights agreement, estimated to be \$70,000 in total, including, without limitation, Securities and Exchange Commission filing fees and expenses of compliance with state securities or blue sky laws; provided, however, the selling stockholders will pay all underwriting discounts and selling commissions, if any. We will indemnify the selling stockholders against liabilities, including some liabilities under the Securities Act in accordance with the registration rights agreements, or the selling stockholders will be entitled to contribution. We may be indemnified by the selling stockholders against civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act that may arise from any written information furnished to us by the selling stockholders specifically for use in this prospectus, in accordance with the related registration rights agreements, or we may be entitled to contribution.

Once sold under the registration statement, of which this prospectus is a part, the shares of common stock will be freely tradeable in the hands of persons other than our affiliates.

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LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the shares of common stock offered by this prospectus has been passed upon by Latham & Watkins LLP, Boston, Massachusetts.

EXPERTS

The financial statements of A123 Systems, Inc. as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, and for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2011, incorporated by reference in this prospectus, and the effectiveness of A123 Systems, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011 have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports (which reports express (i) an unqualified opinion on the financial statements and include explanatory paragraphs referring to substantial doubt about A123's ability to continue as a going concern, and the adoption of Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Update 2011-5, *Comprehensive Income (Topic 220)* as amended, and (ii) an adverse opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting due to a material weakness), which are incorporated by reference herein. Such financial statements have been incorporated in reliance upon the reports of such firm given their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We are subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other documents with the SEC. You may read and copy any reports, proxy statements and other documents we file at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference rooms. You may also obtain copies of these reports, proxy statements and other documents at the SEC's website, the address of which is <http://www.sec.gov>.

We have filed a registration statement on Form S-3 and related exhibits with the SEC under the Securities Act. The registration statement contains additional information about us and the shares of common stock covered by this prospectus. You may inspect the registration statement and exhibits without charge and obtain copies from the SEC at the location above or from the SEC's web site.

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate into this prospectus information that we file with the SEC in other documents. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring to other documents that contain that information. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any future filings we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 after the date of this prospectus and prior to the sale of all the shares covered by this prospectus.

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- Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011, filed with the SEC on March 12, 2012 as amended on Form 10-K/A for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011, filed on May 10, 2012;
- Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed with the SEC on April 13, 2012;
- Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on May 15, 2012;
- Current Reports on Form 8-K (in each case, other than information and exhibits furnished to and not filed with the SEC in accordance with SEC Rules and Regulations) filed with the SEC on January 20, 2012, January 24, 2012, February 14, 2012, March 1, 2012, March 8, 2012, April 11, 2012, May 8, 2012, May 15, 2012, May 24, 2012, May 30, 2012, July 5, 2012 and July 6, 2012; and

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- The description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed with the SEC on September 18, 2009, including any amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description.

A statement contained in a document incorporated by reference into this prospectus shall be deemed to be modified or superceded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or in any other subsequently filed document which is also incorporated in this prospectus modifies or replaces such statement. Any statements so modified or superceded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superceded, to constitute a part of this prospectus.

We will provide to you, upon request and without cost to you, a copy of any of the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus. You may make such request in writing or by telephone to the following address and/or telephone number: A123 Systems, Inc., 200 West Street, Waltham, Massachusetts 02451, telephone: (617) 778-5700.

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49,602,469 Shares

A123 SYSTEMS, INC.

COMMON STOCK
