

VECTOR GROUP LTD

Form 424B3

December 08, 2005

Table of Contents

**Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(B)(3)
Registration No. 333-129146**

**Increased Offer by VGR Holding Inc.
to Exchange
0.54 of a Share of Common Stock
of
Vector Group Ltd.
for
Each Outstanding Common Share
of
New Valley Corporation**

THIS OFFER, AND YOUR RIGHT TO WITHDRAW THE COMMON SHARES OF NEW VALLEY CORPORATION YOU TENDER INTO THIS OFFER, WILL EXPIRE AT 5:00 P.M., NEW YORK CITY TIME, ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2005, UNLESS WE EXTEND THIS OFFER.

We are offering to exchange 0.54 of a share of Vector Group Ltd., or Vector, common stock for each outstanding common share of New Valley Corporation, or New Valley, on the terms and conditions contained in this Prospectus and in the related Letter of Transmittal.

This prospectus amends and supersedes information included in the Prospectus originally filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on October 20, 2005, as supplemented. Stockholders who wish to tender should follow the instructions included in this Prospectus and the accompanying Letter of Transmittal.

VGR Holding Inc., or VGR Holding, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Vector, and we currently own approximately 57.7% of the outstanding common shares of New Valley. On November 16, 2005, we entered into agreements with several large stockholders of New Valley, who in the aggregate own approximately 28.2% of the outstanding New Valley common shares, pursuant to which those stockholders agreed to tender their New Valley common shares into our offer. These common shares, when aggregated with the approximately 57.7% of the outstanding common shares of New Valley currently owned by Vector, represent approximately 85.9% of New Valley's outstanding common shares that are committed to the offer. This offer is conditioned on, among other things, the tender of a sufficient number of the outstanding common shares of New Valley such that, after giving effect to the offer, we own at least 90% of the outstanding common shares of New Valley. If this minimum tender condition is satisfied, more than a majority of the minority stockholders of New Valley (*i.e.*, stockholders unaffiliated with Vector and its subsidiaries and stockholders who are not directors or officers of New Valley) will have also validly tendered and not properly withdrawn their common shares of New Valley in our offer. Our obligation to exchange shares of Vector common stock for common shares of New Valley is also subject to other conditions described in this Prospectus under "The Offer—Conditions of the Offer" beginning on page 64. We do not intend to have a subsequent offering period.

On November 22, 2005, the special committee of New Valley's board of directors issued a press release in which the special committee stated that it had determined on behalf of the New Valley board of directors that our revised offer at an exchange ratio of 0.54 was fair to the holders of common shares of New Valley, other than Vector and its affiliates, and will recommend that holders of common shares of New Valley tender their common shares pursuant to our revised offer.

If we successfully complete this offer, we will own more than 90% of the outstanding common shares of New Valley, and we would then effect a short form merger of one of our wholly-owned subsidiaries with New Valley. Under Delaware law, this short form merger would be effected without the approval of New Valley's board of directors or the remaining holders of New Valley's common shares. We will effect the subsequent merger as soon as practicable after we complete this offer, unless we are prevented from doing so by a court or other legal requirement. Each common share of New Valley that we do not own or acquire in this offer would be converted in the subsequent merger into the right to receive 0.54 of a share of Vector common stock, unless the holder of the common shares of New Valley properly perfects appraisal rights under Delaware law. After we complete the subsequent merger, New Valley will be our wholly-owned subsidiary.

See Risk Factors beginning on page 10 for a discussion of issues that you should consider in determining whether to tender your common shares into this offer.

Vector's common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange and trades under the symbol VGR. New Valley's common shares are listed on The Nasdaq Stock Market and trade under the symbol NVAL.

NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NOR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED OF THE VECTOR COMMON STOCK TO BE ISSUED IN THIS OFFER AND THE SUBSEQUENT MERGER OR DETERMINED IF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS PROSPECTUS IS ACCURATE OR ADEQUATE. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

The Dealer Manager for the Offer is:
Georgeson Shareholder Securities Corporation

The date of this prospectus is November 23, 2005.

Table of Contents**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	Page
<u>QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE OFFER</u>	iii
<u>SUMMARY</u>	1
<u>Introduction</u>	1
<u>Information About Vector and New Valley</u>	2
<u>The Offer</u>	2
<u>Selected Historical Financial Data of Vector and New Valley</u>	5
<u>Unaudited Comparative Per Share Data</u>	8
<u>Comparative Per Share Market Data</u>	9
<u>Vector Dividend Policy</u>	9
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	10
<u>Risks Related to the Offer and the Subsequent Merger</u>	10
<u>Risks Related to Our Business</u>	12
<u>FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION</u>	24
<u>BACKGROUND AND REASONS FOR THE OFFER AND SUBSEQUENT MERGER</u>	25
<u>Vector's Long-Term Investment in New Valley</u>	25
<u>Key Factors Motivating the Offer</u>	25
<u>Financial Impact of the Offer on Vector</u>	26
<u>No Prior Discussions Relating to Potential Extraordinary Transaction</u>	26
<u>Vector Board's September 27, 2005 Decision to Commence the Offer</u>	26
<u>Events After Commencement of Our Offer</u>	30
<u>Vector Board's November 16, 2005 Decision to Increase the Exchange Ratio</u>	31
<u>Opinion of Jefferies</u>	33
<u>Agreements to Tender</u>	41
<u>ADDITIONAL FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION BY NEW VALLEY</u>	
<u>STOCKHOLDERS</u>	41
<u>FINANCIAL FORECASTS</u>	42
<u>UNAUDITED PRO FORMA FINANCIAL INFORMATION</u>	44
<u>COMPARATIVE PER SHARE MARKET PRICE AND DIVIDEND INFORMATION</u>	51
<u>Vector</u>	51
<u>New Valley</u>	52
<u>THE OFFER</u>	52
<u>Exchange of Common Shares of New Valley</u>	52
<u>Timing of the Offer</u>	54
<u>Extension, Termination and Amendment</u>	54
<u>Delivery of Vector Common Stock</u>	54
<u>Cash Instead of Fractional Shares of Vector Common Stock</u>	55
<u>Procedure for Tendering Common Shares</u>	55
<u>Withdrawal Rights</u>	56
<u>Effect of a Tender of Common Shares</u>	57
<u>Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences</u>	57
<u>Purpose of the Offer; The Subsequent Merger</u>	60
<u>Appraisal Rights</u>	62
<u>Conditions of the Offer</u>	64

Table of Contents

	Page
<u>CERTAIN LEGAL MATTERS AND REGULATORY APPROVALS</u>	67
<u>U.S. Approvals</u>	67
<u>Non-U.S. Approvals</u>	67
<u>State Takeover Laws</u>	67
<u>Stockholder Litigation</u>	67
<u>CERTAIN EFFECTS OF THE OFFER</u>	68
<u>Effects on the Market</u>	68
<u>Exchange Act Registration</u>	68
<u>Financing of the Offer</u>	68
<u>Conduct of New Valley if the Offer is Not Completed</u>	68
<u>Relationships with New Valley</u>	68
<u>Accounting Treatment</u>	70
<u>Fees and Expenses</u>	71
<u>INTERESTS OF CERTAIN PERSONS IN THE OFFER AND SUBSEQUENT MERGER</u>	72
<u>COMPARISON OF RIGHTS OF HOLDERS OF NEW VALLEY COMMON SHARES AND</u>	
<u>HOLDERS OF VECTOR COMMON STOCK</u>	76
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	79
<u>VECTOR SEC FILINGS</u>	79
<u>NEW VALLEY SEC FILINGS</u>	80
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	80
<u>EXPERTS</u>	80
<u>MISCELLANEOUS</u>	81
ANNEXES:	
<u>ANNEX A INFORMATION CONCERNING THE DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS</u>	
<u>OF VECTOR AND VGR HOLDING</u>	A-1
<u>ANNEX B INTERESTS OF VECTOR AND THE DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND</u>	
<u>AFFILIATES OF VECTOR IN COMMON SHARES OF NEW VALLEY</u>	B-1
<u>ANNEX C SECTION 262 OF GENERAL CORPORATION LAW OF THE STATE OF</u>	
<u>DELAWARE</u>	C-1
<u>ANNEX D OPINION OF JEFFERIES & COMPANY, INC.</u>	D-1

Table of Contents

As permitted under the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, this Prospectus incorporates important business and financial information about Vector and New Valley that is contained in documents filed with the SEC but that is not included in or delivered with this Prospectus. You may obtain copies of these documents, without charge, from the website maintained by the SEC at www.sec.gov, as well as other sources. See **Where You Can Find More Information** beginning on page 79.

You may also obtain copies of these documents, without charge, upon written or oral request to our Information Agent, Georgeson Shareholder Communications Inc., at (877) 388-2794 (toll free), or from our Dealer Manager for this offer, Georgeson Shareholder Securities Corporation, collect at (212) 440-9800. To obtain timely delivery of copies of these documents, you should request them no later than five business days prior to the expiration of this offer. Unless this offer is extended, the latest you should request copies of these documents is Friday, December 2, 2005.

Except as otherwise specifically noted, we, our, us and similar words in this Prospectus refer to VGR Holding Inc. or VGR Holding, and/or Vector Group Ltd., or Vector. In addition, we refer to New Valley Corporation as New Valley.

In **Questions and Answers About the Offer** below and in the **Summary** beginning on page 1, we highlight selected information from this Prospectus but we have not included all of the information that may be important to you. To better understand the offer and the subsequent merger and for a more complete description of their legal terms, you should read carefully this entire Prospectus, including the Annexes, as well as the documents we have incorporated by reference into this Prospectus. See **Where You Can Find More Information** beginning on page 79.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE OFFER

Q. Why Are We Making The Offer?

- A. We currently own 12,849,118 outstanding common shares of New Valley, representing approximately 57.7% of all of the outstanding common shares of New Valley. We are making the offer for the purpose of acquiring all of the remaining outstanding common shares of New Valley, in order to combine New Valley with Vector.

Q. What Will I Receive In Exchange For The Common Shares Of New Valley That I Tender Into The Offer?

- A. If we successfully complete the offer, you will receive 0.54 of a share of Vector common stock in exchange for each common share of New Valley that you validly tender into the offer. We will not issue fractional shares of Vector common stock. Instead, any New Valley stockholder entitled to receive a fractional share of Vector common stock will receive cash in an amount equal to the fraction, multiplied by the closing price of a share of Vector common stock on the New York Stock Exchange on the last trading day before the time that the offer expires. See **The Offer – Cash Instead of Fractional Shares of Vector Common Stock** on page 55.

Q. How Have You Revised The Offer?

- A. On October 20, 2005, we commenced the offer at an exchange ratio of 0.461 shares of Vector common stock for each common share of New Valley. On November 16, 2005, we announced an increase in the exchange ratio to 0.54 shares of Vector common stock for each common share of New Valley.

Q. Have Any New Valley Stockholders Agreed to Tender Into The Offer?

- A. Yes. On November 16, 2005, we entered into agreements with several large stockholders of New Valley, who in the aggregate own approximately 28.2% of the outstanding New Valley common shares. Pursuant to these agreements, these stockholders agreed to tender their common shares of New Valley into our offer for no additional consideration in exchange for our agreement to increase the exchange ratio to 0.54 for all stockholders of New Valley. These common shares, when aggregated with the approximately 57.7% of the outstanding

common shares of New Valley currently owned by Vector,
iii

Table of Contents

represent approximately 85.9% of New Valley's outstanding common shares that are committed to the offer.

Q. What Are The Potential Benefits Of This Offer To New Valley Stockholders?

- A. We believe that this offer should be attractive to New Valley stockholders for the reasons described elsewhere in this Prospectus as well as for the following reasons:

based on the closing price of Vector common stock on November 16, 2005, the day of our announcement of this revised offer, the value of the consideration we are offering for each New Valley common share was \$10.82, representing a premium of 45% over \$7.45, the last closing price for New Valley common shares before we announced our original offer on September 27, 2005;

if we successfully complete the offer, you will hold shares in a larger combined company which we believe will have a more liquid market for its shares than New Valley on a stand-alone basis;

as a result of your exchange of common shares of New Valley for shares of Vector common stock, you will become entitled to receive quarterly cash dividends from Vector, which we expect to continue to pay at our current quarterly rate of \$0.40 per share. See "Comparative Per Share Market Price and Dividend Information" Vector "Vector Dividend Policy" on page 51. New Valley does not currently pay a regular cash dividend with respect to its common shares; and

you will have the opportunity to continue to participate in New Valley's growth through your ownership of shares of Vector common stock.

Q. What Are Some Of The Other Factors I Should Consider In Deciding Whether To Tender My Common Shares Of New Valley?

- A. In addition to the factors described elsewhere in this Prospectus, you should consider the following:

the exchange ratio reflects a value of approximately \$10.82 per common share of New Valley, based on the closing price of Vector common stock on November 16, 2005, the day of our announcement of the revised 0.54 exchange ratio for our offer. This value is above the closing price of New Valley common shares on September 27, 2005, \$7.45, and above the highest closing price at which common shares of New Valley had closed in the one year period before the announcement of our original offer, \$7.63, which was reached on August 25, 2005. However, this value is below the closing price of New Valley common shares of \$10.95 on November 21, 2005, the highest price at which common shares of New Valley have closed following the announcement of our offer; and

as a stockholder of Vector, your interest in the performance and prospects of New Valley will be only indirect and in proportion to your share ownership in Vector. You therefore may not realize the same financial benefits of any future appreciation in the value of New Valley that you may realize if the offer and subsequent merger were not completed and you were to remain a New Valley stockholder.

We describe various factors New Valley stockholders should consider in deciding whether to tender their common shares under "Risk Factors" beginning on page 10 and "Additional Factors for Consideration by New Valley Stockholders" beginning on page 41.

Q. If I Decide Not To Tender, How Will This Affect The Offer And My Common Shares Of New Valley?

- A. We will not acquire any common shares of New Valley in the offer unless New Valley stockholders (other than Vector and its subsidiaries) have tendered into the offer, and not withdrawn, as of the expiration of the offer, a sufficient number of common shares of New Valley such that we would hold following the offer at least 90% of the outstanding common shares of New Valley. Your failure to tender your common shares of New Valley will reduce the likelihood that we will receive tenders of a sufficient number of common shares of New Valley to be able to complete the offer. See The Offer Conditions of the Offer beginning on page 64.

iv

Table of Contents

If you do not tender your common shares of New Valley and we nonetheless successfully complete the offer, as permitted under Delaware law, we would then effect a short form merger of one of our wholly-owned subsidiaries with New Valley without the approval of New Valley's board of directors or the remaining holders of New Valley's common shares. We will effect this subsequent merger as soon as practicable after we complete the offer unless we are prevented from doing so by a court or other legal requirement. Each common share of New Valley that we do not own or acquire in the offer would be converted in the subsequent merger into the right to receive 0.54 of a share of Vector common stock, and cash instead of fractional shares, unless you properly perfect your appraisal rights under Delaware law. See *The Offer Purpose of the Offer; The Subsequent Merger* beginning on page 60 and *The Offer Appraisal Rights* beginning on page 62.

If we do not successfully complete the offer, your common shares of New Valley will remain outstanding and we expect that New Valley will remain a majority-owned subsidiary of Vector. See *Certain Effects of the Offer Conduct of New Valley if the Offer is Not Completed* beginning on page 68.

Q. How Long Will It Take To Complete The Offer And The Subsequent Short Form Merger?

- A. We hope to complete the offer promptly after its expiration at 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on Friday, December 9, 2005. However, we may extend the offer if the conditions to the offer have not been satisfied as of the offer's scheduled expiration or if we are required to extend the offer pursuant to the tender offer rules of the SEC. We will complete the subsequent merger as soon as practicable after the successful completion of the offer, unless a court or other legal requirement prevents us from doing so.

Q. Has The New Valley Board Formed A Special Committee Of Independent Directors To Evaluate Vector's Offer?

- A. Yes. New Valley has formed a special committee consisting of independent directors Arnold I. Burns (Chairman), Ronald J. Kramer, Barry W. Ridings and Victor M. Rivas to evaluate our offer.

Q. Has New Valley's Board Of Directors Made A Recommendation Concerning The Offer?

- A. On November 22, 2005, the special committee issued a press release in which the special committee stated that it had determined on behalf of the New Valley board of directors that our revised offer at an exchange ratio of 0.54 was fair to the holders of common shares of New Valley, other than Vector and its affiliate, and will recommend that holders of common shares of New Valley tender their common shares pursuant to our revised offer. The press release also stated that the special committee will provide additional information relating to its recommendation pursuant to an amended Solicitation/Recommendation Statement on Schedule 14D-9 promptly after the filing of this Prospectus with the SEC. In evaluating this offer, you should be aware that four of eight members of the New Valley board are Vector directors and/or executive officers. For additional information on interests that New Valley's board members and executive officers may have in the offer and subsequent merger, see *Interests of Certain Persons in the Offer and Subsequent Merger* beginning on page 72.

Q. Has Vector Negotiated, Or Sought The Approval Of, The Terms Of This Offer Or The Subsequent Merger With New Valley?

- A. We have not negotiated the terms of this offer or the subsequent merger with New Valley, its board of directors or the special committee of its board. Moreover, we have not requested that New Valley, its board of directors or any special committee approve this offer. However, after we commenced our initial offer at an exchange ratio of 0.461 on October 20, 2005, our representatives and representatives of the special committee's financial and legal advisors scheduled a series of due diligence meetings. In addition, representatives of our respective financial

advisors held several discussions to exchange perspectives regarding the offer and subsequent merger and on November 21, 2005 we provided to the special committee a substantially complete copy of this Prospectus.

v

Table of Contents

Q. What Percentage Of Vector Common Stock Will Current New Valley Stockholders Receive After The Successful Completion Of The Offer And Subsequent Merger?

- A. We anticipate that the completion of the offer and subsequent merger will result in the exchange of the outstanding common shares of New Valley that we do not currently own into approximately 10.2% of the shares of Vector's common stock outstanding at the conclusion of the transactions, without regard to outstanding stock options or outstanding series of convertible notes of Vector, and 7.4% on a fully diluted basis. In general, this assumes that:

up to approximately 5,082,000 shares of Vector common stock would be issued in the offer and the subsequent merger and, if all New Valley stock options vest and are exercised by the holders thereof, up to a maximum of approximately 5,193,000 shares of Vector common stock would be issued;

44,733,460 shares of Vector common stock are outstanding before giving effect to the completion of the offer and the subsequent merger; and

no New Valley stockholders exercise appraisal rights.

The holders of Vector common stock are entitled to one vote for each share they hold. The former stockholders of New Valley, who would receive Vector common stock, will, therefore, receive approximately 10.2% of the outstanding voting power of Vector immediately following the offer and the subsequent merger, without regard to outstanding stock options or outstanding series of convertible notes of Vector, and 7.4% of the voting power on a fully diluted basis.

Q. What Are The Most Significant Conditions To The Offer?

- A. The offer is conditioned upon, among other things, satisfaction of the minimum tender condition. In particular, there must be validly tendered, and not properly withdrawn prior to the expiration of the offer, at least 7,185,429 common shares (based on the number of outstanding common shares of New Valley as of the date of this Prospectus) such that, after giving effect to the offer, we own at least 90% of the total number of outstanding common shares of New Valley (or 22,260,607, as of November 22, 2005). If this minimum tender condition is satisfied, more than a majority of the minority stockholders of New Valley (*i.e.*, stockholders unaffiliated with Vector and its subsidiaries and stockholders who are not directors or officers of New Valley) will have also validly tendered and not properly withdrawn their common shares of New Valley in our offer. We will not waive this minimum tender condition. In addition, the following conditions, among others, must also be met:

the Registration Statement, of which this Prospectus is a part, having been declared effective by the SEC;

the issuance of certain shares of Vector common stock to be issued in the offer and the subsequent merger having been approved by Vector stockholders entitled to vote thereon;

the shares of Vector common stock to be issued in the offer and the subsequent merger having been approved for listing on the New York Stock Exchange;

the receipt of an opinion of counsel regarding the federal income tax consequences of the offer and the subsequent merger;

the absence of any event that would be expected to have a material adverse effect on New Valley such that, regardless of the circumstances, in our good faith judgment, it would be inadvisable to proceed with the offer;

the absence of material adverse developments in the New Valley stockholder litigations against us which are pending, including any appeals; and

the absence of legal impediments to the offer or the subsequent merger.

These conditions and other conditions to the offer are discussed in this Prospectus under **The Offer** **Conditions of the Offer** beginning on page 64.

vi

Table of Contents

Q. Will I Be Taxed On The Vector Common Stock That I Receive?

- A. The offer and the subsequent merger are intended to qualify as a reorganization for United States federal income tax purposes under which you would generally not recognize gain or loss upon the receipt of shares of Vector common stock in exchange for your common shares of New Valley, other than any gain or loss recognized on the receipt of cash instead of fractional shares. The offer is conditioned on the receipt of an opinion from Vector's legal counsel to the effect that the Vector common stock received in the offer and subsequent merger will be treated as received in a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. See *The Offer - Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences* beginning on page 57. The tax consequences to you will depend on the facts and circumstances of your own situation. Please consult your tax advisor for a full understanding of the tax consequences to you.

Q. Do The Statements On The Cover Page Regarding This Prospectus Being Subject To Change And The Registration Statement Filed With The SEC Not Yet Being Effective Mean That The Offer Has Not Commenced?

- A. No. As permitted under SEC rules, we have commenced the offer without the Registration Statement, of which this Prospectus is a part, having been declared effective by the SEC. We cannot, however, complete the offer and accept for exchange any common shares of New Valley tendered in the offer until the Registration Statement is declared effective by the SEC and the other conditions to our offer have been satisfied or, where permissible, waived.

Q. Are Vector's Business, Prospects And Financial Condition Relevant To My Decision To Tender My Common Shares In The Offer?

- A. Yes. Common shares of New Valley accepted in the offer will be exchanged for shares of Vector common stock and therefore you should consider Vector's business, prospects and financial condition before you decide whether to tender your common shares in the offer. In considering our business, prospects and financial condition, you should review the documents incorporated by reference in this Prospectus because they contain detailed business, financial and other information about us. See *Where You Can Find More Information* beginning on page 79.

Q. If I Have Already Tendered My Common Shares In The Original Offer Do I Need To Do Anything To Tender Into The Revised Offer?

- A. No. New Valley common shares validly tendered in connection with our offer commenced on October 20, 2005 and not properly withdrawn will automatically be considered tendered into this revised offer.

Q. Whom Can I Call With Questions About The Offer?

- A. You can contact our Information Agent or Dealer Manager for the offer:
- The Information Agent for the Offer is:*
Georgeson Shareholder Communications Inc.
17 State Street, 10th Floor
New York, NY 10004
(877) 388-2794 (Toll Free)
- Banks and Brokerage Firms please call:
(212) 440-9800
- The Dealer Manager for the Offer is:*
Georgeson Shareholder Securities Corporation

17 State Street, 10th Floor
New York, NY 10004
(212) 440-9800
vii

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

Introduction

We are proposing to acquire all of the outstanding common shares of New Valley that we do not already own. We currently own 12,849,118 common shares of New Valley, representing approximately 57.7% of the outstanding common shares of New Valley.

We are offering to exchange 0.54 of a share of Vector common stock for each outstanding common share of New Valley, upon the terms and conditions set forth in this Prospectus and the related Letter of Transmittal. We will not acquire any common shares of New Valley in the offer unless New Valley stockholders (other than Vector and its subsidiaries) have validly tendered and not properly withdrawn prior to the expiration of the offer a number of common shares of New Valley such that, after giving effect to the offer, we own at least 90% of the total number of outstanding common shares of New Valley. If this minimum tender condition is satisfied, more than a majority of the minority stockholders of New Valley (*i.e.*, stockholders unaffiliated with Vector and its subsidiaries and stockholders who are not directors or officers of New Valley) will have also validly tendered and not properly withdrawn their common shares of New Valley in our offer. We will not waive this minimum tender condition. As of November 22, 2005, there were 22,260,607 common shares of New Valley outstanding. Accordingly, for us to acquire any common shares of New Valley, stockholders of New Valley must, based on this information as to New Valley's outstanding common shares, have tendered into the offer, and not withdrawn, as of the expiration of the offer, at least 7,185,429 common shares of New Valley (based on the number of outstanding common shares of New Valley as of the date of this Prospectus). These share numbers would change as a result of changes in New Valley's share capitalization, such as through the exercise of outstanding stock options. On November 16, 2005, we entered into agreements with several large stockholders of New Valley, who in the aggregate own approximately 28.2% of the outstanding New Valley common shares, pursuant to which those stockholders agreed to tender their New Valley common shares into our offer. These common shares, when aggregated with the approximately 57.7% of the outstanding common shares of New Valley currently owned by Vector, represent approximately 85.9% of New Valley's outstanding common shares that are committed to the offer. There are also other conditions to the offer that are described under "The Offer Conditions of the Offer" beginning on page 64.

If we successfully complete the offer, we would then own at least 90% of the outstanding common shares of New Valley and be permitted under Delaware law to effect a short form merger of one of our wholly-owned subsidiaries with New Valley without the approval of New Valley's board or remaining stockholders. We will effect a short form merger of one of our wholly-owned subsidiaries with New Valley as soon as practicable after we complete the offer unless we are prevented from doing so by a court or other legal requirement. Each outstanding common share of New Valley we do not own or acquire in the offer would be converted in the subsequent merger into the right to receive 0.54 of a share of Vector common stock and cash instead of fractional shares, the same consideration per common share of New Valley you would have received if you had tendered your common shares into the offer, unless you properly perfect your appraisal rights under Delaware law. See "The Offer Purpose of the Offer; The Subsequent Merger" beginning on page 60 and "The Offer Appraisal Rights" beginning on page 62. After completion of the subsequent merger, New Valley will be a wholly-owned subsidiary of Vector.

Table of Contents

Information About Vector and New Valley

VECTOR GROUP LTD.
100 S.E. Second Street
Miami, Florida 33131
(305) 579-8000

Vector, a Delaware corporation, is a holding company for a number of businesses. We hold these businesses through our wholly-owned subsidiary VGR Holding. In addition to our ownership of a 57.7% interest in New Valley, we are engaged principally in:

the manufacture and sale of cigarettes in the United States through our subsidiary Liggett Group Inc., and

the development and marketing of the low nicotine and nicotine-free QUEST cigarette products and the development of reduced risk cigarette products through our subsidiary Vector Tobacco Inc.

We are controlled by Bennett S. LeBow, our Chairman and the Chairman of New Valley, who beneficially owns approximately 33.3% of our common stock.

NEW VALLEY CORPORATION
100 S.E. Second Street
Miami, Florida 33131
(305) 579-8000

New Valley, a Delaware corporation, is engaged in the real estate business and is seeking to acquire additional real estate properties and operating companies. New Valley owns a 50% interest in Douglas Elliman Realty, LLC, which operates the largest residential real estate brokerage company in the New York City metropolitan area. New Valley also holds, through its New Valley Realty Division, 50% interests in the Sheraton Keauhou Bay Resort & Spa in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, and the St. Regis Hotel in Washington, D.C. In February 2005, New Valley completed the sale of its two commercial office buildings in Princeton, N.J.

New Valley was originally organized under the laws of New York in 1851 and operated for many years under the name Western Union Corporation. In 1991, bankruptcy proceedings were commenced against New Valley. In January 1995, New Valley emerged from bankruptcy. As part of the plan of reorganization, New Valley sold the Western Union money transfer and messaging services businesses and all allowed claims in the bankruptcy were paid in full.

The Offer

Exchange of Common Shares of New Valley

Upon the terms and subject to the conditions of the offer, promptly after the expiration of the offer we will accept common shares of New Valley which are validly tendered and not properly withdrawn in exchange for newly issued shares of Vector common stock. We are offering to exchange 0.54 of a share of Vector common stock for each outstanding common share of New Valley not already owned by us.

Timing of the Offer

We commenced the original offer on October 20, 2005, the date of the distribution of the prospectus distributed with the original offer. This revised offer is scheduled to expire at 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on Friday, December 9, 2005, unless we extend the period of the offer. All references to the expiration of the offer mean the time of expiration, as extended.

Table of Contents

Extension, Termination and Amendment

We expressly reserve the right, in our sole discretion, to extend, on one or more occasions, the period of time during which the offer remains open, and we can do so by giving oral or written notice of extension to American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, the Exchange Agent and Depositary for the offer. If we decide to extend the offer, we will make an announcement to that effect no later than 9:00 a.m., New York City time, on the next business day after the previously scheduled expiration. We are not giving any assurance that we will exercise our right to extend the offer. During any extension, all common shares of New Valley previously tendered and not withdrawn will remain deposited with the Exchange Agent and Depositary, subject to your right to withdraw your common shares of New Valley as described under **Withdrawal Rights** below. We do not intend to have a subsequent offering period.

We reserve the right, in our sole discretion, to delay, on one or more occasions, our acceptance for exchange of common shares of New Valley pursuant to our offer. We also reserve the right to terminate our offer and not accept for exchange any common shares of New Valley, upon the failure of any of the conditions of the offer to be satisfied or, where permissible, waived, or otherwise to amend the offer in any respect (except as described below), by giving oral or written notice of delay, termination or amendment to the Exchange Agent and Depositary and by making a public announcement.

We will follow any extension, delay, termination or amendment, as promptly as practicable, with a public announcement. Subject to applicable law, including Rules 14d-4(c) and 14d-6(d) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, which require that any material change in the information published, sent or given to the stockholders in connection with the offer be promptly sent to stockholders in a manner reasonably designed to inform stockholders of the change, and without limiting the manner in which we may choose to make any public announcement, we assume no obligation to publish, advertise or otherwise communicate any public announcement other than by making a release to the Dow Jones News Service.

Delivery of Vector Common Stock

We will accept for exchange common shares of New Valley validly tendered and not properly withdrawn promptly after the expiration of the offer and will exchange Vector common stock and cash instead of fractional shares for the tendered common shares of New Valley as soon as practicable afterwards. In all cases, exchange of common shares of New Valley tendered and accepted for exchange pursuant to the offer will be made only if the Exchange Agent and Depositary timely receives (1) certificates for those common shares of New Valley, or a timely confirmation of a book-entry transfer of those common shares of New Valley in the Exchange Agent and Depositary's account at The Depository Trust Company, or DTC, and a properly completed and duly executed Letter of Transmittal, or a manually signed copy, and any other required documents; or (2) a timely confirmation of a book-entry transfer of those common shares of New Valley in the Exchange Agent and Depositary's account at DTC, together with an agent's message as described below under **Procedure for Tendering Shares**.

Withdrawal Rights

You may withdraw any common shares of New Valley you previously tendered into the offer at any time before the expiration of the offer. After the expiration of the offer, tenders are irrevocable. However, if we have not accepted tendered shares for exchange by Saturday, December 17, 2005, you may withdraw tendered shares at any time thereafter prior to their acceptance for exchange.

Cash Instead of Fractional Shares of Vector Common Stock

We will not issue any fraction of a share of Vector common stock pursuant to the offer or the subsequent merger. Instead, each tendering stockholder who would otherwise be entitled to a fraction of a share of Vector common stock, after combining all fractional shares to which the stockholder would otherwise be entitled, will receive cash in an amount equal to the product obtained by multiplying (1) the fraction of a share of Vector common stock to which the holder would otherwise be entitled by (2) the

Table of Contents

closing price of Vector common stock as reported on the New York Stock Exchange on the last trading day before the time that the offer expires.

Procedure for Tendering Shares

For you to validly tender common shares of New Valley into our offer, you must do one of the following:
deliver certificates for your common shares, a properly completed and duly executed Letter of Transmittal or a copy thereof that has been manually signed, along with any other required documents, to the Exchange Agent and Depositary at one of its addresses set forth on the back cover of this Prospectus prior to the expiration of the offer;

arrange for a book-entry transfer of your common shares to be made to the Exchange Agent and Depositary's account at DTC and receipt by the Exchange Agent and Depositary of a confirmation of this transfer prior to the expiration of the offer, and the delivery of a properly completed and duly executed Letter of Transmittal or a copy thereof that has been manually signed, and any other required documents to the Exchange Agent and Depositary at one of its addresses set forth on the back cover of this Prospectus prior to the expiration of the offer; or

arrange for a book-entry transfer of your common shares to the Exchange Agent and Depositary's account at DTC and receipt by the Exchange Agent and Depositary of confirmation of this transfer, including an agent's message, prior to the expiration of the offer.

These deliveries and arrangements must be made before the expiration of the offer. Common shares of New Valley validly tendered and not properly withdrawn in connection with our offer commenced on October 20, 2005 will automatically be considered tendered into this revised offer. **Tenders by Notice of Guaranteed Delivery will not be accepted.**

Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences

The offer and the subsequent merger are intended to qualify as a reorganization for United States federal income tax purposes under which you would generally not recognize gain or loss upon the receipt of shares of Vector common stock in exchange for your common shares of New Valley, other than any gain or loss recognized on the receipt of cash instead of fractional shares. The offer is conditioned on the receipt of an opinion from Vector's legal counsel to the effect that the Vector common stock received in the offer and subsequent merger will be treated as received in a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. The tax consequences to you will depend on the facts and circumstances of your own situation. Please consult your tax adviser for a full understanding of the tax consequences to you.

Regulatory Approvals

We are not aware of any license or regulatory permit material to the business of New Valley and its subsidiaries, on a consolidated basis, that may be materially adversely affected by our acquisition of New Valley's common shares, or any filing or approval that would be required for our acquisition of New Valley's common shares. We intend to make all required filings under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and the Exchange Act. We are unaware of any requirement for the filing of information with, or the obtaining of the approval of, governmental authorities in any non-U.S. jurisdiction that is applicable to the offer or the subsequent merger.

Appraisal Rights

Under Delaware law, you will not have any appraisal rights in connection with the offer. However, appraisal rights, if properly perfected, are available in connection with the subsequent merger.

Table of Contents

Accounting Treatment

Our acquisition of the New Valley common shares will be accounted for under the purchase method of accounting in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States.

Comparison of Rights of Stockholders of New Valley and Stockholders of Vector

If we successfully complete the offer, holders of New Valley's common shares will become stockholders of Vector, and their rights as stockholders will be governed by Vector's amended and restated certificate of incorporation and its by-laws. There are differences between the certificates of incorporation and by-laws of New Valley and Vector. Since New Valley and Vector are both Delaware corporations, the rights of New Valley stockholders will continue to be governed by Delaware law after the completion of the offer and the subsequent merger.

New Valley Shares Held by Vector Directors, Executive Officers and Affiliates

VGR Holding owns approximately 57.7% of the outstanding common shares of New Valley. The directors and executive officers of Vector and VGR Holding, in the aggregate, own 910,112 of the outstanding common shares of New Valley, representing approximately 4.1% of the outstanding common shares of New Valley. For more details see

Interests of Vector and the Directors, Executive Officers and Affiliates of Vector, in Common Shares of New Valley on Annex B of this Prospectus.

Selected Historical Financial Data of Vector and New Valley

We are providing the following selected financial information to assist you in analyzing the financial aspects of the offer and the subsequent merger. We derived the unaudited financial information presented for Vector and for New Valley as of, and for the nine-month periods ended, September 30, 2005 and 2004 from Vector's and New Valley's respective Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended September 30, 2005. We derived the financial information presented for Vector and for New Valley as of, and for each of the five years for the period ended, December 31, 2004, from Vector's and New Valley's respective Annual Reports on Form 10-K for each of those years. Per share information for Vector in this Prospectus gives effect to the 5% stock dividend paid on September 29, 2005. As a result of the sale of its office buildings in February 2005, New Valley's real estate leasing operations, which were the primary source of New Valley's revenues for 2003, 2004 and the three months ended March 31, 2005, have been treated as discontinued operations and are not reflected in the table.

You should read the financial information with respect to Vector and New Valley in conjunction with the historical consolidated financial statements and related notes contained in the annual, quarterly and other reports filed by Vector and New Valley with the SEC, which we have incorporated by reference into this Prospectus. See "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 79.

Table of Contents**Vector Selected Historical Consolidated Financial Data**

**As of and for the
Nine Months Ended
September 30,**

Year Ended December 31,

2005**2004****2004****2003****2002****2001****2000****(In thousands, except per share amounts)****Statement of****Operations Data:**

Revenues ⁽¹⁾	\$ 342,251	\$ 370,869	\$ 498,860	\$ 529,385	\$ 503,078	\$ 447,382	\$ 415,055
-------------------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

Income (loss) from continuing operations ⁽²⁾	27,232	(4,588)	4,039	(16,132)	(31,819)	21,200	165,933
---	--------	---------	-------	----------	----------	--------	---------

Income (loss) from discontinued operations	3,034	379	2,689	522	25	(537)	8,285
--	-------	-----	-------	-----	----	-------	-------

Net income (loss)	30,266	(4,209)	6,728	(15,610)	(31,794)	20,663	174,218
-------------------	--------	---------	-------	----------	----------	--------	---------

Per basic common
share⁽³⁾:

Income (loss) from continuing operations	\$ 0.62	\$ (0.11)	\$ 0.09	\$ (0.39)	\$ (0.79)	\$ 0.59	\$ 5.53
--	---------	-----------	---------	-----------	-----------	---------	---------

Income (loss) from discontinued operations	\$ 0.07	\$ 0.01	\$ 0.06	\$ 0.02		\$ (0.01)	\$ 0.28
--	---------	---------	---------	---------	--	-----------	---------

Net income (loss) applicable to common shares	\$ 0.69	\$ (0.10)	\$ 0.15	\$ (0.37)	\$ (0.79)	\$ 0.58	\$ 5.81
---	---------	-----------	---------	-----------	-----------	---------	---------

Per diluted common
share⁽³⁾:

Income (loss) from continuing operations	\$ 0.59	\$ (0.11)	\$ 0.09	\$ (0.39)	\$ (0.79)	\$ 0.49	\$ 4.70
--	---------	-----------	---------	-----------	-----------	---------	---------

Income (loss) from discontinued operations	\$ 0.07	\$ 0.01	\$ 0.06	\$ 0.02		\$ (0.01)	\$ 0.23
--	---------	---------	---------	---------	--	-----------	---------

Net income (loss) applicable to common shares	\$ 0.66	\$ (0.10)	\$ 0.15	\$ (0.37)	\$ (0.79)	\$ 0.48	\$ 4.93
---	---------	-----------	---------	-----------	-----------	---------	---------

Cash distributions

declared per common

share ⁽³⁾	\$ 1.14	\$ 1.08	\$ 1.47	\$ 1.40	\$ 1.33	\$ 1.27	\$ 0.99
----------------------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------

Balance Sheet Data:

Current assets	\$ 290,739	\$ 237,489	\$ 242,124	\$ 314,741	\$ 376,815	\$ 515,727	\$ 269,942
----------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

Total assets	536,407	528,047	535,895	628,212	707,270	688,903	425,848
--------------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------

Current liabilities	122,676	127,716	119,835	173,086	184,384	141,629	138,775
---------------------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------

Notes payable, embedded
derivatives, long-term
debt and other
obligations, less current
portion

	277,966	286,272	280,289	299,977	307,028	225,415	39,890
--	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	--------

Noncurrent employee	232,010	207,780	220,574	201,624	193,561	208,501	234,734
---------------------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------

benefits, deferred income

taxes, minority interests
and other long-term
liabilities

Stockholders' equity (deficit)	(96,245)	(93,721)	(84,803)	(46,475)	22,297	113,358	12,449
-----------------------------------	----------	----------	----------	----------	--------	---------	--------

- (1) Revenues include excise taxes of \$112,856, \$132,729, \$175,674, \$195,342, \$192,664, \$151,174 and \$116,116, respectively.
- (2) Includes a gain of \$161,000 in 2000, net of taxes and minority interests, from the sale of Vector's Russian tobacco business, Liggett Ducat; restructuring charges of \$3,500 at Liggett in 2002; restructuring and impairment charges of \$21,300 at Vector Tobacco in 2003; restructuring and impairment charges of \$11,100 at Liggett and \$2,600 at Vector Tobacco and a \$37,000 inventory charge at Vector Tobacco in 2004; restructuring and impairment charges of \$6,320 at Liggett and \$1,224 at Vector Tobacco and a \$37,000 inventory charge at Vector Tobacco for the nine months ended September 30, 2004; and a special federal quota stock liquidation assessment under the federal tobacco legislation of \$5,219 (\$5,150 at Liggett and \$69 at Vector Tobacco) for the nine months ended September 30, 2005.
- (3) Per share computations include the impact of 5% stock dividends on September 29, 2005, September 29, 2004, September 29, 2003, September 27, 2002, September 28, 2001 and September 28, 2000.

Table of Contents**New Valley Selected Historical Consolidated Financial Data**

**As of and For the Nine
Months Ended
September 30,**

Year Ended December 31,

2005 2004 2004 2003 2002 2001 2000

(In thousands, except per share amounts)

Operating Results:

Preparing Results:																				
Total revenues	\$		\$		\$		\$	661	\$	9,966	\$	3,199								
Total costs and expenses		10,453		8,898		13,773		11,901		14,391		22,930		18,612						
Other results from continuing operations		18,793		16,102		19,227		3,873		(8,446)		(3,071)		51,138						
Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes and minority interests																				
		8,340		7,204		5,454		(8,028)		(22,176)		(16,035)		35,725						
Income tax provision (benefit)		2,992		(616)		(13,861)		(952)		(46)		260								
Minority interests in income (loss) from continuing operations of consolidated subsidiaries																				
				(1)		5		(20)		(151)		(594)		(323)						
Income (loss) from continuing operations																				
		5,348		7,821		19,310		(7,056)		(21,979)		(15,701)		36,048						
Discontinued operations:																				
Income (loss) from discontinued operations																				
		231		1,012		1,220		1,394		67		(5,829)		5,002						
Gain on disposal of discontinued operations																				
		8,290				5,927						4,346		17,879						
Income (loss) from discontinued operations																				
		8,521		1,012		7,147		1,394		67		(1,483)		22,881						
Net income (loss) applicable to common shares																				
	\$	13,869		\$	8,833		\$	26,457		\$	(5,662)		\$	(21,912)		\$	(17,184)		\$	58,929

Per common and
equivalent share:

Basic:

Income (loss) from continuing operations	\$	0.24	\$	0.35	\$	0.87	\$	(0.32)	\$	(0.96)	\$	(0.69)	\$	1.57
Income (loss) from discontinued operations		0.39		0.05		0.33		0.06				(0.06)		0.99
Net income (loss) per common share		0.63		0.40		1.20		(0.26)		(0.96)		(0.75)		2.56

Diluted:

Income (loss) from continuing operations	\$	0.24	\$	0.35	\$	0.87	\$	(0.32)	\$	(0.96)	\$	(0.69)	\$	1.56
Income (loss) from discontinued operations		0.38		0.05		0.33		0.06				(0.06)		0.99
Net income (loss) per common share		0.62		0.40		1.20		(0.26)		(0.96)		(0.75)		2.55

Cash dividends declared

Book value	\$	6.23	\$	4.94	\$	5.69	\$	4.69	\$	4.59	\$	5.63	\$	6.54
------------	----	------	----	------	----	------	----	------	----	------	----	------	----	------

Balance Sheet Data:

Total assets	\$	145,674	\$	166,857	\$	175,178	\$	161,896	\$	163,548	\$	162,698	\$	263,130
Long-term notes payable				38,730		38,569		39,266		39,856		11,142		11,900
Prepetition claims ⁽¹⁾		300		600		300		600		674		2,700		10,229
Stockholders equity		138,579		109,153		125,636		103,748		103,057		128,480		149,685
Working capital ⁽²⁾		103,992		67,458		82,877		70,986		80,159		113,628		72,720

(1) Represents prepetition claims against New Valley in its bankruptcy case.

(2) Working capital represents current assets less current liabilities on the New Valley consolidated balance sheets.

Table of Contents**Unaudited Comparative Per Share Data**

In the following table we present historical per share data for Vector and New Valley, combined pro forma per share data for Vector and equivalent pro forma per share data for New Valley, as of, and for the nine months ended September 30, 2005 and for the year ended, December 31, 2004. We present the pro forma per share data for comparative purposes only. The data does not purport to be indicative of (1) the results of operations or financial position which would have been achieved if the offer and the subsequent merger had been completed at the beginning of the periods or as of the dates indicated, or (2) the results of operations or financial position which may be achieved in the future. The per share data reflects the impact of Vector's 5% stock dividend paid on September 29, 2005. The pro forma per share data does not reflect any payment that may be required to be made in connection with the exercise of appraisal rights by New Valley stockholders under Delaware law in connection with the subsequent merger.

	Vector	Vector	New Valley	New Valley
	Historical	Pro Forma	Historical	Equivalent
	Per Share	Per Share	Per Share	Pro Forma
	Data	Data(1)(2)(3)	Data	Per Share Data(1)

For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2005

Earnings from continuing operations per share of common stock:

Basic	\$ 0.62	\$ 0.56	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.30
Diluted	\$ 0.59	\$ 0.53	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.29
Cash dividends per share of common stock	\$ 1.14	\$ 1.14	\$	\$ 0.62
Book value per share of common stock ⁽⁴⁾	\$ (2.16)	\$ 0.69	\$ 6.23	\$ 0.37

For the Year Ended December 31, 2004

Earnings from continuing operations per share of common stock:

Basic	\$ 0.09	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.87	\$ 0.14
Diluted	\$ 0.09	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.87	\$ 0.13
Cash dividends per share of common stock	\$ 1.47	\$ 1.47	\$	\$ 0.79

(1) The Vector unaudited pro forma combined earnings from continuing operations per share and book value per common share are based on New Valley stockholders receiving 0.54 of a share of Vector common stock for each common share of New Valley. The New Valley equivalent unaudited pro forma per share data are calculated by multiplying the unaudited pro forma combined per share data by 0.54.

(2) Reflects the historical operations of Vector and New Valley adjusted to reflect the impact of purchase accounting by Vector and the issuance of Vector common stock.

(3)

Based on the price of Vector common stock as of November 16, 2005 and the exchange ratio of 0.54 of a share of Vector common stock for each outstanding common share of New Valley, we have estimated a purchase price of approximately \$106.9 million for the common shares of New Valley not owned by Vector. For purposes of the calculation of pro forma earnings from continuing operations per share, we have performed a preliminary allocation of this purchase price. Of the \$106.9 million total consideration, approximately \$37.8 million is estimated to be recorded as goodwill, which will not be subject to amortization.

- (4) Historical book value per share of common stock at September 30, 2005 is computed by dividing stockholders equity (deficit) of \$(96.2) million and of \$138.6 million for Vector and New Valley, respectively, by the number of shares of common stock outstanding as of September 30, 2005. Pro forma book value per share is computed by dividing pro forma stockholders equity by the pro forma number of shares of common stock outstanding as of September 30, 2005.

Table of Contents**Comparative Per Share Market Data**

In the following table we present:

the prices per share of Vector's common stock and New Valley's common shares as of the close of trading on November 16, 2005, the day of our announcement of the revised 0.54 exchange ratio of our offer; and

the equivalent price per common share of New Valley, based on the exchange ratio.

	Vector Historical	New Valley Historical	New Valley Equivalent⁽¹⁾
As of closing on November 16, 2005, price per share	\$ 20.03	\$ 9.20	\$ 10.82

(1) We calculated the New Valley equivalent data by multiplying the applicable Vector closing price by the exchange ratio in the offer and the subsequent merger of 0.54 of a share of Vector common stock for each common share of New Valley.

On November 22, 2005, the last trading date prior to the printing of this Prospectus for which this information was practicably available, the closing prices per share of Vector common stock and per common share of New Valley were \$20.32 and \$10.87, respectively.

The market prices of shares of Vector common stock and New Valley common shares are subject to fluctuation. The actual value of the shares of Vector common stock you receive in the offer will likely differ from the values illustrated. You are urged to obtain current market quotations. See "Comparative Per Share Market Price and Dividend Information" beginning on page 51.

Vector Dividend Policy

The holders of shares of Vector common stock receive dividends if and when declared by our board of directors out of legally available funds. We currently pay quarterly cash dividends at a rate of \$0.40 per share. We currently expect to continue to pay quarterly cash dividends at this rate on a basis consistent with our past practice following completion of the offer and the subsequent merger. However, payment of dividends is within the discretion of Vector's board and is subject to a variety of contingencies such as market conditions, earnings and our financial condition as well as the availability of cash. On September 9, 2005, Vector declared a regular quarterly dividend of \$0.40 per share and a 5% stock dividend payable on September 29, 2005 to holders of record of Vector common stock on September 20, 2005. No assurance can be given that we will continue to pay cash dividends on our common stock at the current rate in the future or that stock dividends will be declared in the future.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

In deciding whether to tender your common shares pursuant to the offer, you should read carefully this Prospectus and the documents which we incorporate by reference into this Prospectus. You should also carefully consider the following factors:

Risks Related to the Offer and the Subsequent Merger

The number of shares of Vector common stock that you will receive in the offer and the subsequent merger will be based upon a fixed exchange ratio. The value of the shares of Vector common stock at the time you receive them could be less than at the time you tender your common shares of New Valley.

In the offer and the subsequent merger, each common share of New Valley will be exchanged for 0.54 of a share of Vector common stock. This is a fixed exchange ratio. We will not adjust the exchange ratio as a result of any change in the market price of Vector common stock between the date of this Prospectus and the date you receive shares of Vector common stock in exchange for common shares of New Valley. The market price of the Vector common stock will likely be different on the date you receive shares of Vector common stock than it is today because of changes in the business, operations or prospects of Vector, market reactions to our offer, general market and economic conditions and other factors. You are urged to obtain current market quotations for Vector common stock and New Valley common shares. See Comparative Per Share Market Price and Dividend Information beginning on page 51.

The trading price of Vector's common stock may be affected by factors in addition to those factors affecting the price of New Valley's common shares. The price of Vector's common stock could decline following the offer.

If we successfully complete the offer and the subsequent merger, holders of New Valley's common shares will become holders of Vector's common stock. Although we currently own approximately 57.7% of New Valley's outstanding common shares, we also own and operate other businesses. Accordingly, our results of operations and business, as well as the trading price of our common stock, may be affected by factors in addition to those affecting New Valley's results of operations and business and the price of New Valley's common shares. The price of Vector's common stock may decrease after we accept common shares of New Valley for exchange in the offer and complete the subsequent merger.

We have not negotiated with or sought approval of the price or terms of the offer or the subsequent merger from New Valley's board.

In evaluating this offer, you should be aware that we have not negotiated the price or terms of this offer or the subsequent merger with New Valley, its board of directors or any special committee of its board. We have also not requested that New Valley, its board of directors or any special committee of its board approve this offer or the subsequent merger. However, after we commenced our initial offer at an exchange ratio of 0.461 on October 20, 2005, our representatives and representatives of the special committee's financial and legal advisors scheduled a series of due diligence meetings. In addition, representatives of our respective financial advisors held several discussions to exchange perspectives regarding the offer and subsequent merger and on November 21, 2005 we provided to the special committee a substantially complete copy of this Prospectus.

The board of directors and executive officers of New Valley have potential conflicts of interests with respect to the offer.

You should be aware that there exist conflicts of interest among members of the New Valley board. Not only does Vector own approximately 57.7% of the outstanding New Valley common shares, but four of the eight members of the New Valley board are directors and/or executive officers of Vector. For additional information on the interests that New Valley's board members and executive officers may have

Table of Contents

in the offer and subsequent merger, see **Interests of Certain Persons in the Offer and Subsequent Merger** beginning on page 72.

The offer and the subsequent merger may not qualify as a reorganization for United States federal income tax purposes.

The offer and the subsequent merger are intended to qualify as a reorganization for United States federal income tax purposes under which you would generally not recognize gain or loss upon the receipt of shares of Vector common stock in exchange for your common shares of New Valley, other than any gain or loss recognized on the receipt of cash instead of fractional shares. The offer is conditioned on the receipt of an opinion from Vector's legal counsel to the effect that the Vector common stock received in the offer and subsequent merger will be treated as received in a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. Counsel's opinion will be based on the accuracy of certain representations and covenants to be made by Vector and New Valley in certificates of officers of Vector and New Valley provided to counsel as of the expiration of the offer, and on the occurrence of certain events after completion of the offer, including the subsequent merger. In addition, counsel's opinion is not binding on the Internal Revenue Service, which may disagree with and challenge the conclusions contained in counsel's opinion. If the Vector common stock received in the offer and the subsequent merger is not treated as received in a reorganization, the receipt of Vector common stock for New Valley common shares will be taxable to you. See **The Offer - Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences** beginning on page 57.

We may not be able to effect the short form merger even if a sufficient number of common shares of New Valley are tendered in the offer.

We will promptly complete a short form merger following the completion of the offer unless we are prevented from doing so by a court or other legal requirement. However, if we successfully complete the offer but are not able to complete promptly the short form merger, common shares of New Valley not tendered into the offer would remain outstanding until we are able to effect such a merger, if ever. In these circumstances, the liquidity of and market for those remaining publicly held common shares of New Valley could be adversely affected. New Valley's common shares are currently listed on The Nasdaq Stock Market. Depending upon the number of common shares of New Valley purchased in the offer, New Valley's common shares may no longer meet the requirements for continued listing and may be delisted from The Nasdaq Stock Market. It is possible that New Valley's common shares would continue to trade in the over-the-counter market and that price quotations would be reported by other sources. The extent of the public market for New Valley's common shares and the availability of these quotations would depend, however, upon the number of holders of New Valley's common shares remaining at that time, the interests in maintaining a market in New Valley's common shares on the part of securities firms, the possible termination of registration of New Valley's common shares under the Exchange Act, as described below, and other factors.

In addition, if the subsequent short form merger is not completed, the Vector common stock received in the offer for New Valley common shares may not be treated as received in a reorganization and will be taxable to you. See **The Offer - Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences** beginning on page 57.

In addition, New Valley's registration under the Exchange Act could be terminated upon application of New Valley to the SEC if the shares are no longer listed on a securities exchange and there are fewer than 300 holders of record of New Valley common shares. The termination of the registration of New Valley's common shares under the Exchange Act would substantially reduce the information required to be furnished by New Valley to its stockholders and to the SEC. It would also make certain of the provisions of the Exchange Act, such as the short-swing profit recovery provisions of Section 16(b) of the Exchange Act, the requirement of furnishing a proxy statement in connection with stockholders' meetings, the related requirement of an annual report to stockholders, and the requirements of Rule 13e-3 of the Exchange Act with respect to going private transactions, no longer applicable.

Table of Contents

Common shares of New Valley are currently margin securities under the regulations of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. This has the effect of allowing brokers to extend credit on common shares of New Valley as collateral. Depending on factors similar to those described above regarding listing and market quotations, it is possible that New Valley's common shares would no longer constitute margin securities for purposes of the Federal Reserve Board's margin regulations. If registration of New Valley's common shares under the Exchange Act is terminated, New Valley's common shares would no longer be margin securities.

Risks Related to Our Business

Our business activities are subject to hazards and risks. The following is a summary of the material risks relating to our business activities. Before tendering your common shares of New Valley in the offer, you should carefully consider the material risks described below, as well as the other information contained in this Prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference in this Prospectus under the caption *Where You Can Find More Information* beginning on page 79. If any of the events described below occur, our business, financial condition and/or results of operations could be materially harmed, and you could lose part or all of your investment.

We and our subsidiaries have a substantial amount of indebtedness.

We and our subsidiaries have significant indebtedness and debt service obligations. At September 30, 2005, we and our subsidiaries had total outstanding indebtedness (including embedded derivative liability and beneficial conversion feature related to convertible notes) of \$310.1 million. In addition, subject to the terms of any future agreements, we and our subsidiaries will be able to incur additional indebtedness in the future. There is a risk that we will not be able to generate sufficient funds to repay our debt. If we cannot service our fixed charges, it would have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

We are a holding company and depend on cash payments from subsidiaries, which are subject to contractual and other restrictions, in order to service our debt and to pay dividends on our common stock.

We are a holding company and have no operations of our own. We hold our interests in our various businesses through our wholly-owned subsidiary, VGR Holding. In addition to our own cash resources, our ability to pay interest on our convertible notes and to pay dividends on our common stock depends on the ability of VGR Holding to make cash available to us. VGR Holding's ability to pay dividends to us depends primarily on the ability of Liggett Group Inc., or Liggett, its wholly-owned subsidiary, and New Valley, in which we indirectly hold an approximately 57.7% interest, to generate cash and make it available to VGR Holding. Liggett's revolving credit agreement permits Liggett to pay cash dividends to VGR Holding only if Liggett's borrowing availability exceeds \$5.0 million for the 30 days prior to payment of the dividend and immediately after giving effect to the dividend, and so long as no event of default has occurred under the agreement, including Liggett's compliance with the covenants in the credit facility, including an adjusted net worth and working capital requirement.

As the controlling stockholder of New Valley, we must deal fairly with New Valley, which may limit our ability to enter into transactions with New Valley that result in the receipt of cash from New Valley and to influence New Valley's dividend policy. In addition, since we indirectly own only approximately 57.7% of the common shares of New Valley, a significant portion of any cash and other assets distributed by New Valley will be received by persons other than us and our subsidiaries. This risk would be eliminated if we successfully complete our offer and the subsequent merger.

Our receipt of cash payments, as dividends or otherwise, from our subsidiaries is an important source of our liquidity and capital resources. If we do not have sufficient cash resources of our own and do not receive payments from our subsidiaries in an amount sufficient to repay our debts and to pay dividends on our common stock, we must obtain additional funds from other sources. There is a risk that we will not be able to obtain additional funds at all or on terms acceptable to us. Our inability to service these obligations

Table of Contents

and to continue to pay dividends on our common stock would significantly harm us and the value of our common stock.

Our liquidity could be adversely affected if taxing authorities prevail in their assertion that we incurred a tax obligation in 1998 and 1999 in connection with the Philip Morris brand transaction.

In connection with the 1998 and 1999 transaction with Philip Morris Incorporated, in which a subsidiary of Liggett contributed three of its premium cigarette brands to Trademarks LLC, or Trademarks, a newly-formed limited liability company, we recognized in 1999 a pre-tax gain of \$294.1 million in our consolidated financial statements and established a deferred tax liability of \$103.1 million relating to the gain. In such transaction, Philip Morris acquired an option to purchase the remaining interest in Trademarks for a 90-day period commencing in December 2008, and we have an option to require Philip Morris to purchase the remaining interest for a 90-day period commencing in March 2010. Upon exercise of the options during either of the 90-day periods commencing in December 2008 or in March 2010, we will be required to pay tax in the amount of the deferred tax liability, which will be offset by the benefit of any deferred tax assets, including any net operating losses, available to us at that time. In connection with an examination of our 1998 and 1999 federal income tax returns, the Internal Revenue Service issued to us in September 2003 a notice of proposed adjustment. The notice asserts that, for tax reporting purposes, the entire gain should have been recognized in 1998 and in 1999 in the additional amounts of \$150.0 million and \$129.9 million, respectively, rather than upon the exercise of the options during either of the 90-day periods commencing in December 2008 or in March 2010. If the Internal Revenue Service were to ultimately prevail with the proposed adjustment, it would result in the potential acceleration of tax payments of approximately \$126.0 million, including interest, net of tax benefits, through September 30, 2005. These amounts have been previously recognized in our consolidated financial statements as tax liabilities. In addition, we have filed a protest with the Appeals Division of the Internal Revenue Service. Although no payment is due with respect to these matters during the appeal process, interest is accruing on the disputed amounts.

There is a risk that the taxing authorities will ultimately prevail in their assertion that we incurred a tax obligation prior to the exercise dates of these options and we will be required to make such tax payments prior to 2009 or 2010. If that were to occur and any necessary financing were not available to us, our liquidity could be materially adversely affected, which in turn would materially adversely affect the value of our common stock.

Liggett faces intense competition in the domestic tobacco industry.

Liggett is considerably smaller and has fewer resources than its major competitors and, as a result, has a more limited ability to respond to market developments. Management Science Associates data indicate that the three largest cigarette manufacturers controlled approximately 83.2% of the United States cigarette market during 2004. Philip Morris is the largest and most profitable manufacturer in the market, and its profits are derived principally from its sale of premium cigarettes. Philip Morris had approximately 62.3% of the premium segment and 47.5% of the total domestic market during 2004. During 2004, all of Liggett's sales were in the discount segment, and its share of the total domestic cigarette market was 2.3%. Philip Morris and RJR Tobacco (which is now part of Reynolds American Inc., or Reynolds American), the two largest cigarette manufacturers, have historically, because of their dominant market share, been able to determine cigarette prices for the various pricing tiers within the industry. Market pressures have historically caused the other cigarette manufacturers to bring their prices into line with the levels established by these two major manufacturers.

In July 2004, RJR Tobacco and Brown & Williamson, the second and third largest cigarette manufacturers, completed the combination of their United States tobacco businesses to create Reynolds American. This transaction has further consolidated the dominance of the domestic cigarette market by Philip Morris and the newly created Reynolds American, who had an initial combined market share of approximately 76%. This concentration of United States market share could make it more difficult for Liggett and Vector Tobacco to compete for shelf space in retail outlets and could impact price competition

Table of Contents

in the market, either of which could have a material adverse affect on their sales volume, operating income and cash flows, which in turn could negatively affect the value of our common stock.

Liggett's business is highly dependent on the discount cigarette segment.

Liggett depends more on sales in the discount cigarette segment of the market, relative to the full-price premium segment, than its major competitors. All of Liggett's unit volume in 2004, and approximately 94.6% of Liggett's unit sales in 2003, were generated in the discount segment. The discount segment is highly competitive, with consumers having less brand loyalty and placing greater emphasis on price. While the three major manufacturers all compete with Liggett in the discount segment of the market, the strongest competition for market share has recently come from a group of small manufacturers and importers, most of which sell low quality, deep discount cigarettes. While Liggett's share of the discount market increased to 7.4% in 2004 from 7.3% in 2003 and 6.7% in 2002, Management Science Associates data indicate that the discount market share of these other smaller manufacturers and importers increased to 39% in 2004 from 37.8% in 2003 and 33.5% in 2002 due to their increased competitive discounting. If pricing in the discount market continues to be impacted by these smaller manufacturers and importers, margins in Liggett's only current market segment could be negatively affected, which in turn could negatively affect the value of our common stock.

Liggett's market share is susceptible to decline.

In years prior to 2000, Liggett suffered a substantial decline in unit sales and associated market share. Liggett's unit sales and market share increased during each of 2000, 2001 and 2002, and its market share increased in 2003 while its unit sales declined. During 2004, Liggett's unit sales and market share declined compared to the prior year. This earlier market share erosion resulted in part from Liggett's highly leveraged capital structure that existed until December 1998 and its limited ability to match other competitors' wholesale and retail trade programs, obtain retail shelf space for its products and advertise its brands. The decline in recent years also resulted from adverse developments in the tobacco industry, intense competition and changes in consumer preferences. According to Management Science Associates data, Liggett's overall domestic market share during 2004 was 2.3% compared to 2.4% during 2003 and 2002. Liggett's share of the premium segment was 0.2% in 2003 and 0.3% in 2002, and its share of the discount segment during 2004 was 7.4%, up from 7.3% in 2003 and 6.7% in 2002. If Liggett's market share continues to decline, Liggett's sales volume, operating income and cash flows could be materially adversely affected, which in turn could negatively affect the value of our common stock.

The domestic cigarette industry has experienced declining unit sales in recent periods.

Industry-wide shipments of cigarettes in the United States have been generally declining for a number of years, with published industry sources estimating that domestic industry-wide shipments decreased by approximately 1.7% during 2004. According to Management Science Associates data, domestic industry-wide shipments decreased by 4.1% in 2003 compared to 2002. Liggett's management believes that industry-wide shipments of cigarettes in the United States will generally continue to decline as a result of numerous factors. These factors include health considerations, diminishing social acceptance of smoking, and a wide variety of federal, state and local laws limiting smoking in restaurants, bars and other public places, as well as federal and state excise tax increases and settlement-related expenses which have contributed to high cigarette price levels in recent years. If this decline in industry-wide shipments continues and Liggett is unable to capture market share from its competitors, or if the industry as a whole is unable to offset the decline in unit sales with price increases, Liggett's sales volume, operating income and cash flows could be materially adversely affected, which in turn could negatively affect the value of our common stock.

Litigation and regulation will continue to harm the tobacco industry.

The cigarette industry continues to be challenged on numerous fronts. New cases continue to be commenced against Liggett and other cigarette manufacturers. As of September 30, 2005, there were

Table of Contents

approximately 278 individual suits, 11 purported class actions and eight governmental and other third-party payor health care reimbursement actions pending in the United States in which Liggett was a named defendant. A civil lawsuit has been filed by the United States federal government seeking disgorgement of approximately \$289 billion from various cigarette manufacturers, including Liggett. A federal appellate court ruled in February 2005 that disgorgement is not an available remedy in the case. In October 2005, the United States Supreme Court declined to review this decision. Trial of the case concluded on June 15, 2005. On June 27, 2005, the government sought to restructure its potential remedies and filed a proposed Final Judgment and Order. That relief can be grouped into four categories: (1) \$14 billion for a cessation and counter marketing program; (2) so-called corrective statements ; (3) disclosures; and (4) enjoined activities. The parties are expected to complete post-trial submissions during November 2005. In one of the other cases pending against Liggett, in 2000, an action against cigarette manufacturers involving approximately 1,000 named individual plaintiffs was consolidated before a single West Virginia state court. Liggett is a defendant in most of the cases pending in West Virginia. In January 2002, the court severed Liggett from the trial of the consolidated action. Two purported class actions have been certified in state court in Kansas and New Mexico against the cigarette manufacturers for alleged antitrust violations. As new cases are commenced, the costs associated with defending these cases and the risks relating to the inherent unpredictability of litigation continue to increase.

Class action suits have been filed in a number of states against individual cigarette manufacturers, alleging that the use of the terms lights and ultralights constitutes unfair and deceptive trade practices. One such suit (Schwab v. Philip Morris, et al.), pending in federal court in New York against the cigarette manufacturers, seeks to create a nationwide class of light cigarette smokers and includes Liggett as a defendant. Plaintiffs motion for class certification and summary judgment motions by both sides were heard in September 2005. On November 14, 2005, the Court issued an opinion permitting plaintiffs to seek fluid recovery damages if class certification is granted. Fluid recovery would permit potential damages to be paid out in ways other than merely giving cash directly to plaintiffs, such as establishing a pool of money that could be used for public purposes. To date, the Court has indicated that it is unprepared to issue a class certification decision and will allow discovery to continue. There is no trial date currently scheduled.

There are seven individual actions where Liggett is the only defendant. Trial in one of these cases is currently scheduled to commence on November 28, 2005 in Missouri state court, and the plaintiff is seeking compensatory and punitive damages. In April 2004, in one of these cases, a jury in a Florida state court action awarded compensatory damages of \$0.5 million against Liggett. In addition, plaintiff s counsel was awarded legal fees of \$0.8 million. Liggett has appealed the verdict. In February 2005, in another of these cases, a Florida state court jury returned a verdict in favor of Liggett. In July 2005, the court denied the plaintiff s post-trial motion seeking a new trial. The plaintiff did not appeal the decision. In March 2005, in another case in Florida state court in which Liggett is the only defendant, the court granted Liggett s motion for summary judgment disposing of the case in its entirety. The plaintiff has appealed.

In May 2003, a Florida intermediate appellate court overturned a \$790 million punitive damages award against Liggett and decertified the Engle smoking and health class action. In May 2004, the Florida Supreme Court agreed to review the case. Oral argument was held in November 2004. If the intermediate appellate court s ruling is not upheld on appeal, it will have a material adverse effect on us. In November 2000, Liggett filed the \$3.45 million bond required under the bonding statute enacted in 2000 by the Florida legislature which limits the size of any bond required, pending appeal, to stay execution of a punitive damages verdict. In May 2001, Liggett reached an agreement with the class in the Engle case, which provided assurance to Liggett that the stay of execution, in effect under the Florida bonding statute, would not be lifted or limited at any point until completion of all appeals, including to the United States Supreme Court. As required by the agreement, Liggett paid \$6.27 million into an escrow account to be held for the benefit of the Engle class, and released, along with Liggett s existing \$3.45 million statutory bond, to the court for the benefit of the class upon completion of the appeals process, regardless of the outcome of the appeal. In June 2002, the jury in an individual case brought under the third phase of the Engle case awarded \$37.5 million (subsequently reduced by the court to \$25.1 million) of compensatory

Table of Contents

damages against Liggett and two other defendants and found Liggett 50% responsible for the damages. The verdict, which is subject to the outcome of the Engle appeal, has been overturned as a result of the appellate court's ruling discussed above. It is possible that additional cases could be decided unfavorably and that there could be further adverse developments in the Engle case. Liggett may enter into discussions in an attempt to settle particular cases if it believes it is appropriate to do so. We cannot predict the cash requirements related to any future settlements and judgments, including cash required to bond any appeals, and there is a risk that those requirements will not be able to be met.

In recent years, there have been a number of proposed restrictive regulatory actions from various federal administrative bodies, including the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration. There have also been adverse political decisions and other unfavorable developments concerning cigarette smoking and the tobacco industry, including the commencement and certification of class actions and the commencement of third-party payor actions. These developments generally receive widespread media attention. We are not able to evaluate the effect of these developing matters on pending litigation or the possible commencement of additional litigation, but our consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows could be materially adversely affected by an unfavorable outcome in any smoking-related litigation, which in turn could negatively affect the value of our common stock.

Liggett may have additional payment obligations under the Master Settlement Agreement and its other settlement agreements with the states.

Liggett has recently been notified that all Participating Manufacturers' payment obligations under the Master Settlement Agreement, dating from the agreement's execution in late 1998, have been recalculated utilizing net unit amounts, rather than gross unit amounts (which have been utilized since 1999). The change in the method of calculation could, among other things, require additional payments by Liggett under the Master Settlement Agreement of approximately \$2.3 million per year for the period 2001 through 2004, or a total of approximately \$9.2 million, and require Liggett to pay an additional amount of approximately \$2.4 million per year in 2005 and in future periods by lowering Liggett's market share exemption under the Master Settlement Agreement. Liggett contends that the retroactive change from utilizing gross unit amounts to net unit amounts is impermissible and has objected to the change. Liggett intends to challenge the change in methodology.

On March 30, 2005, the Independent Auditor under the Master Settlement Agreement calculated \$28.7 million in Master Settlement Agreement payments for Liggett's 2004 sales. On April 15, 2005, Liggett paid \$11.7 million of this amount and, in accordance with its rights under the Master Settlement Agreement, disputed the balance of \$17.0 million. Of the disputed amount, Liggett paid \$9.3 million into the disputed payments account under the Master Settlement Agreement and withheld from payment \$7.7 million. The \$9.3 million paid into the disputed payments account represents the amount claimed by Liggett as an adjustment to its 2003 payment obligation under the Master Settlement Agreement for market share loss to non-participating manufacturers. The \$7.7 million withheld from payment represents \$5.3 million claimed as an adjustment to Liggett's 2004 Master Settlement Agreement obligation for market share loss to non-participating manufacturers and \$2.4 million relating to the retroactive change, discussed above, to the method for computing payment obligations under the Master Settlement Agreement which Liggett contends, among other things, is not in accordance with the Master Settlement Agreement. On May 31, 2005, New York State filed a motion on behalf of the Settling States in New York state court seeking to compel Liggett and the other Subsequent Participating Manufacturers that paid into the disputed payments account to release to the Settling States the amounts paid into such account. The Settling States contend that Liggett had no right under the Master Settlement Agreement and related agreements to pay into the disputed payments account any amount claimed as an adjustment for market share loss to non-participating manufacturers for 2003, although they acknowledge that Liggett has the right to dispute such amounts. By stipulation among the parties dated July 25, 2005, New York's motion was dismissed and Liggett authorized the release to the Settling States of the \$9.3 million it had paid into the account, although Liggett continues to dispute that it owes this amount.

Table of Contents

In 2004, the Attorneys General for each of Florida, Mississippi and Texas advised Liggett that they believed that Liggett had failed to make all required payments under the settlement agreements with these three states for the period 1998 through 2003 and that additional payments might be due for 2004 and subsequent years. Liggett believes these allegations are without merit, based, among other things, on the language of the most-favored nation provisions of the settlement agreements. In December 2004, the State of Florida offered to settle all amounts allegedly owed by Liggett for the period through 2003 for the sum of \$13.5 million. In March 2005, the State of Florida reaffirmed its December 2004 offer to settle and provided Liggett with a 60 day notice to cure the alleged defaults. In November 2005, Florida made a revised offer that Liggett pay Florida \$4.25 million to resolve all matters through December 31, 2005, and pay Florida \$0.17 per pack on all Liggett cigarettes sold in Florida beginning January 1, 2006. Liggett has not yet responded to this revised offer from Florida. In November 2004, the State of Mississippi offered to settle all amounts allegedly owed by Liggett for the period through 2003 for the sum of \$6.5 million. In April 2005, the State of Mississippi reaffirmed its November 2004 offer to settle and provided Liggett with a 60 day notice to cure the alleged defaults. Liggett has met with representatives of the three states to discuss the issues relating to the alleged defaults. No resolution has been reached.

No amounts have been accrued in our financial statements for any additional amounts that may be payable by Liggett under the Master Settlement Agreement, due to the recalculation of the Participating Manufacturers' payment obligations, or under the settlement agreements with Florida, Mississippi and Texas. There can be no assurance that Liggett will prevail in any of these matters and that Liggett will not be required to make additional material payments, which payments could materially adversely affect our consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows and the value of our common stock.

Liggett has significant sales to a single customer.

During 2004, 13.8% of Liggett's total revenues and 13.4% of our consolidated revenues were generated by sales to Liggett's largest customer. Liggett's contract with this customer currently extends through March 31, 2009. If this customer discontinues its relationship with Liggett or experiences financial difficulties, Liggett's results of operations could be materially adversely affected.

Liggett may be adversely affected by recent legislation to eliminate the federal tobacco quota system.

In October 2004, federal legislation was enacted which abolished the federal tobacco quota system and price support system. Pursuant to the legislation, manufacturers of tobacco products will be assessed \$10.1 billion over a ten year period to compensate tobacco growers and quota holders for the elimination of their quota rights. Cigarette manufacturers will initially be responsible for 96.3% of the assessment (subject to adjustment in the future), which will be allocated based on relative unit volume of domestic cigarette shipments. We currently estimate that Liggett's assessment will be approximately \$25 million for the first year of the program which began January 1, 2005, including a special federal quota stock liquidation assessment of \$5.2 million. The relative cost of the legislation to each of the three largest cigarette manufacturers will likely be less than the cost to smaller manufacturers, including Liggett and Vector Tobacco, because one effect of the legislation is that the three largest manufacturers will no longer be obligated to make certain contractual payments, commonly known as Phase II payments, they agreed in 1999 to make to tobacco-producing states. The ultimate impact of this legislation cannot be determined, but there is a risk that smaller manufacturers, such as Liggett and Vector Tobacco, will be disproportionately affected by the legislation, which could have a material adverse effect on us.

Excise tax increases adversely affect cigarette sales.

Cigarettes are subject to substantial and increasing federal, state and local excise taxes. The federal excise tax on cigarettes is currently \$0.39 per pack. State and local sales and excise taxes vary considerably and, when combined with the current federal excise tax, may currently exceed \$4.00 per pack. In 2004, ten states enacted increases in excise taxes, and nine states have enacted increases in 2005. Congress has considered significant increases in the federal excise tax or other payments from tobacco manufacturers, and various states and other jurisdictions have currently under consideration or pending legislation

Table of Contents

proposing further state excise tax increases. We believe that increases in excise and similar taxes have had an adverse impact on sales of cigarettes. Further substantial federal or state excise tax increases could accelerate the trend away from smoking and could have a material adverse effect on Liggett's sales and profitability, which in turn could negatively affect the value of our common stock.

Vector Tobacco is subject to risks inherent in new product development initiatives.

We have made, and currently plan to continue to make, significant investments in Vector Tobacco's development projects in the tobacco industry. Vector Tobacco is in the business of developing and marketing the low nicotine and nicotine-free QUEST cigarette products and developing reduced risk cigarette products. These initiatives are subject to high levels of risk, uncertainties and contingencies, including the challenges inherent in new product development. There is a risk that continued investments in Vector Tobacco will harm our results of operations, liquidity or cash flow.

The substantial risks facing Vector Tobacco include:

Risks of market acceptance of new products. In November 2001, Vector Tobacco launched nationwide its reduced carcinogen OMNI cigarettes. During 2002, acceptance of OMNI in the marketplace was limited, with revenues of only approximately \$5.1 million on sales of 70.7 million units. Since 2003, OMNI sales activity has been minimal as Vector Tobacco has not been actively marketing the OMNI product, and the product is not currently in distribution. Vector Tobacco was unable to achieve the anticipated breadth of distribution and sales of the OMNI product due, in part, to the lack of success of its advertising and marketing efforts in differentiating OMNI from other conventional cigarettes with consumers through the reduced carcinogen message. Over the next several years, our in-house research program, together with third-party collaborators, plans to conduct appropriate studies relating OMNI's reduction of carcinogens to reduced risk in smokers and, based on these studies, we will review the marketing and positioning of the OMNI brand in order to formulate a strategy for its long-term success. OMNI has not been a commercially successful product to date, and there is a risk that we will be unable to take action to significantly increase the level of OMNI sales in the future.

Vector Tobacco introduced its low nicotine and nicotine-free QUEST cigarettes in an initial seven-state market in January 2003 and in Arizona in January 2004. During the second quarter of 2004, based on an analysis of the market data obtained since the introduction of the QUEST product, we determined to postpone indefinitely the national launch of QUEST. A national launch of the QUEST brands would require the expenditure of substantial additional sums for advertising and sales promotion, with no assurance of consumer acceptance. Low nicotine and nicotine-free cigarettes may not ultimately be accepted by adult smokers and also may not prove to be commercially successful products. Adult smokers may decide not to purchase cigarettes made with low nicotine and nicotine-free tobaccos due to taste or other preferences, or due to the use of genetically modified tobacco or other product modifications.

Recoverability of costs of inventory. At September 30, 2005, approximately \$1.3 million of our leaf inventory was associated with Vector Tobacco's QUEST product. We estimate an inventory reserve for excess quantities and obsolete items, taking into account future demand and market conditions. During the second quarter of 2004, we recognized a non-cash charge of \$37 million to adjust the carrying value of excess leaf tobacco inventory for the QUEST product, based on estimates of future demand and market conditions. If actual demand or market conditions in the future are less favorable than those estimated, additional inventory write-downs may be required.

Third party allegations that Vector Tobacco products are unlawful or bear deceptive or unsubstantiated product claims. Vector Tobacco is engaged in the development and marketing of low nicotine and nicotine-free cigarettes and the development of reduced risk cigarette products. With respect to OMNI, which is not currently being distributed by Vector Tobacco, reductions in carcinogens have not yet been proven to result in a safer cigarette. Like other cigarettes, the OMNI and QUEST products also produce tar, carbon monoxide, other harmful by-products, and, in the case of OMNI, increased levels of nitric oxide and formaldehyde. There are currently no specific governmental standards or parameters for these products and product claims. There is a risk that federal or state regulators may object to Vector

Table of Contents

Tobacco's low nicotine and nicotine-free cigarette products and reduced risk cigarette products it may develop as unlawful or allege they bear deceptive or unsubstantiated product claims, and seek the removal of the products from the marketplace, or significant changes to advertising. Various concerns regarding Vector Tobacco's advertising practices have been expressed to Vector Tobacco by certain state attorneys general. Vector Tobacco has engaged in discussions in an effort to resolve these concerns and Vector Tobacco has agreed to suspend all print advertising for its QUEST brand while discussions are pending. If Vector Tobacco is unable to advertise its QUEST brand, it could have a material adverse effect on sales of QUEST. Allegations by federal or state regulators, public health organizations and other tobacco manufacturers that Vector Tobacco's products are unlawful, or that its public statements or advertising contain misleading or unsubstantiated health claims or product comparisons, may result in litigation or governmental proceedings. Vector Tobacco's defense against such claims could require it to incur substantial expense and to divert significant efforts of its scientific and marketing personnel. An adverse determination in a judicial proceeding or by a regulatory agency could have a material and adverse impact on Vector Tobacco's business, operating results and prospects.

Potential extensive government regulation. Vector Tobacco's business may become subject to extensive additional domestic and international government regulation. Various proposals have been made for federal, state and international legislation to regulate cigarette manufacturers generally, and reduced constituent cigarettes specifically. It is possible that laws and regulations may be adopted covering matters such as the manufacture, sale, distribution and labeling of tobacco products as well as any health claims associated with reduced carcinogen and low nicotine and nicotine-free cigarette products and the use of genetically modified tobacco. A system of regulation by agencies such as the Food and Drug Administration, the Federal Trade Commission and the United States Department of Agriculture may be established. In addition, a group of public health organizations submitted a petition to the Food and Drug Administration, alleging that the marketing of the OMNI product is subject to regulation by the Food and Drug Administration under existing law. Vector Tobacco has filed a response in opposition to the petition. The Federal Trade Commission has expressed interest in the regulation of tobacco products made by tobacco manufacturers, including Vector Tobacco, which bear reduced carcinogen claims. The outcome of any of the foregoing cannot be predicted, but any of the foregoing could have a material adverse impact on Vector Tobacco's business, operating results and prospects.

Necessity of obtaining Food and Drug Administration approval to market QUEST as a smoking cessation product. In October 2003, we announced that Jed E. Rose, Ph.D., Director of Duke University Medical Center's Nicotine Research Program and co-inventor of the nicotine patch, had conducted a study at Duke University Medical Center to provide preliminary evaluation of the use of the QUEST technology as a smoking cessation aid. We have received guidance from the Food and Drug Administration as to the additional clinical research and regulatory filings necessary to market QUEST as a smoking cessation product. We are currently conducting a multi-centered clinical trial with QUEST cigarettes, which should be completed by the end of the first quarter of 2006. We believe that obtaining the Food and Drug Administration's approval to market QUEST as a smoking cessation product will be an important factor in the long-term commercial success of the QUEST brand. No assurance can be given that such approval can be obtained or as to the timing of any such approval if received.

Competition from other cigarette manufacturers with greater resources. Vector Tobacco's competitors generally have substantially greater resources than Vector Tobacco, including financial, marketing and personnel resources. Other major tobacco companies have stated that they are working on reduced risk cigarette products and have made publicly available at this time only limited additional information concerning their activities. Philip Morris has announced it is developing products that potentially reduce smokers' exposure to harmful compounds in cigarette smoke. RJR Tobacco has stated that in 2003 it began a phased expansion into a select number of retail chain outlets of a cigarette product that primarily heats rather than burns tobacco, which it claims reduces the toxicity of its smoke. In 2002, Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corporation announced it was test marketing a new cigarette with reduced levels of many toxins which it may introduce on a national basis. There is a substantial likelihood that other major

Table of Contents

tobacco companies will continue to introduce new products that are designed to compete directly with Vector Tobacco's reduced carcinogen and low nicotine and nicotine-free products.

Potential disputes concerning intellectual property. Vector Tobacco's ability to commercially exploit its proprietary technology for its reduced carcinogen and low nicotine and nicotine-free products depends in large part on its ability to obtain and defend issued patents, to obtain further patent protection for its existing technology in the United States and other jurisdictions, and to operate without infringing on the patents and proprietary rights of others both in the United States and abroad. Additionally, it must be able to obtain appropriate licenses to patents or proprietary rights held by third parties if infringement would otherwise occur, both in the United States and in foreign countries.

Intellectual property rights, including Vector Tobacco's patents (owned or licensed), involve complex legal and factual issues. Any conflicts resulting from third party patent applications and granted patents could significantly limit Vector Tobacco's ability to obtain meaningful patent protection or to commercialize its technology. If necessary patents currently exist or are issued to other companies that contain competitive or conflicting claims, Vector Tobacco may be required to obtain licenses to use these patents or to develop or obtain alternative technology. Licensing agreements, if required, may not be available on acceptable terms or at all. If licenses are not obtained, Vector Tobacco could be delayed in, or prevented from, pursuing the further development or marketing of its new cigarette products. Any alternative technology, if feasible, could take several years to develop.

Litigation which could result in substantial cost also may be necessary to enforce any patents to which Vector Tobacco has rights, or to determine the scope, validity and unenforceability of other parties' proprietary rights which may affect Vector Tobacco's rights. Vector Tobacco also may have to participate in interference proceedings declared by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to determine the priority of an invention or in opposition proceedings in foreign countries or jurisdictions, which could result in substantial costs. There is a risk that its licensed patents would be held invalid by a court or administrative body or that an alleged infringer would not be found to be infringing. The mere uncertainty resulting from the institution and continuation of any technology-related litigation or any interference or opposition proceedings could have a material and adverse effect on Vector Tobacco's business, operating results and prospects.

Vector Tobacco may also rely on unpatented trade secrets and know-how to maintain its competitive position, which it seeks to protect, in part, by confidentiality agreements with employees, consultants, suppliers and others. There is a risk that these agreements will be breached or terminated, that Vector Tobacco will not have adequate remedies for any breach, or that its trade secrets will otherwise become known or be independently discovered by competitors.

Dependence on key scientific personnel. Vector Tobacco's business depends on the continued services of key scientific personnel for its continued development and growth. The loss of Dr. Anthony Albino, Vice President of Public Health, could have a serious negative impact upon Vector Tobacco's business, operating results and prospects.

Ability to raise capital and manage growth of business. If Vector Tobacco succeeds in introducing to market and increasing consumer acceptance for its new cigarette products, Vector Tobacco will be required to obtain significant amounts of additional capital and manage substantial volume from its customers. There is a risk that adequate amounts of additional capital will not be available to Vector Tobacco to fund the growth of its business. To accommodate growth and compete effectively, Vector Tobacco will also be required to attract, integrate, motivate and retain additional highly skilled sales, technical and other employees. Vector Tobacco will face competition for these people. Its ability to manage volume also will depend on its ability to scale up its tobacco processing, production and distribution operations. There is a risk that it will not succeed in scaling its processing, production and distribution operations and that its personnel, systems, procedures and controls will not be adequate to support its future operations.

Potential delays in obtaining tobacco, other raw materials and any technology needed to produce products. Vector Tobacco is dependent on third parties to produce tobacco and other raw materials that

Table of Contents

Vector Tobacco requires to manufacture its products. In addition, the growing of new tobacco and new seeds is subject to adverse weather conditions. Vector Tobacco may also need to obtain licenses to technology subject to patents or proprietary rights of third parties to produce its products. The failure by such third parties to supply Vector Tobacco with tobacco, other raw materials and technology on commercially reasonable terms, or at all, in the absence of readily available alternative sources, would have a serious negative impact on Vector Tobacco's business, operating results and prospects. There is also a risk that interruptions in the supply of these materials and technology may occur in the future. Any interruption in their supply could have a serious negative impact on Vector Tobacco.

The actual costs and savings associated with restructurings of our tobacco business may differ materially from amounts we estimate.

In recent years, we have undertaken a number of initiatives to streamline the cost structure of our tobacco business and improve operating efficiency and long-term earnings. For example, during 2002, the sales, marketing and support functions of our Liggett and Vector Tobacco subsidiaries were combined. Effective year-end 2003, we closed Vector Tobacco's Timberlake, North Carolina manufacturing facility and moved all production to Liggett's facility in Mebane, North Carolina. In April 2004, we eliminated a number of positions in our tobacco operations and subleased excess office space. In October 2004, we announced a plan to restructure the operations of Liggett Vector Brands, effective December 15, 2004. We may consider various additional opportunities to further improve efficiencies and reduce costs. These prior and current initiatives have involved material restructuring and impairment charges, and any future actions taken are likely to involve material charges as well. These restructuring charges are based on our best estimate at the time of restructuring. The status of the restructuring activities is reviewed on a quarterly basis and any adjustments to the reserve, which could differ materially from previous estimates, are recorded as an adjustment to operating income. Although we may estimate that substantial cost savings will be associated with these restructuring actions, there is a risk that these actions could have a serious negative impact on our tobacco business and that any estimated increases in profitability cannot be achieved.

New Valley is subject to risks relating to the industries in which it operates.

Risks of real estate ventures. New Valley has three significant investments, Douglas Elliman Realty, LLC, the Sheraton Keauhou Bay Resort & Spa (which reopened in the fourth quarter 2004) and the St. Regis Hotel in Washington, D.C. (since August 2005), in each of which it holds only a 50% interest. New Valley must seek approval from other parties for important actions regarding these joint ventures. Since these other parties' interests may differ from those of New Valley, a deadlock could arise that might impair the ability of the ventures to function. Such a deadlock could significantly harm the ventures.

New Valley may pursue a variety of real estate development projects. Development projects are subject to special risks including potential increase in costs, changes in market demand, inability to meet deadlines which may delay the timely completion of projects, reliance on contractors who may be unable to perform and the need to obtain various governmental and third party consents.

Risks relating to the residential brokerage business. Through its investment in Douglas Elliman Realty, LLC, New Valley is subject to the risks and uncertainties endemic to the residential brokerage business. Both Douglas Elliman and Prudential Douglas Elliman Real Estate operate as franchisees of The Prudential Real Estate Affiliates, Inc. Prudential Douglas Elliman operates each of its offices under its franchiser's brand name, but generally does not own any of the brand names under which it operates. The franchiser has significant rights over the use of the franchised service marks and the conduct of the two brokerage companies' business. Prudential Douglas Elliman's franchiser also has the right to terminate Douglas Elliman's and Prudential Douglas Elliman's franchises, upon the occurrence of certain events, including a bankruptcy or insolvency event, a change in control, a transfer of rights under the franchise agreements and a failure to promptly pay amounts due under the franchise agreements. A termination of Douglas Elliman's or Prudential Douglas Elliman's franchise agreement could adversely affect New Valley's investment in Douglas Elliman Realty, LLC.

Table of Contents

Interest rates in the United States are currently at historically low levels. The low interest rate environment in recent years has significantly contributed to high levels of existing home sales and residential prices and has positively impacted Douglas Elliman Realty's operating results. However, the residential real estate market tends to be cyclical and typically is affected by changes in the general economic conditions that are beyond Douglas Elliman Realty's control. Any of the following could have a material adverse effect on Douglas Elliman Realty's residential business by causing a general decline in the number of home sales and/or prices, which in turn, could adversely affect its revenues and profitability:

periods of economic slowdown or recession,

a change in the current low interest rate environment resulting in rising interest rates,

decreasing home ownership rates, or

declining demand for real estate.

All of Douglas Elliman Realty's current operations are located in the New York metropolitan area. Local and regional economic conditions in this market could differ materially from prevailing conditions in other parts of the country. A downturn in the residential real estate market or economic conditions in that region could have a material adverse effect on Douglas Elliman Realty and New Valley's investment in that company.

New Valley's potential investments are unidentified and may not succeed.

New Valley currently holds a significant amount of marketable securities and cash not committed to any specific investments. This subjects a security holder to increased risk and uncertainty because a security holder will not be able to evaluate how this cash will be invested and the economic merits of particular investments. There may be substantial delay in locating suitable investment opportunities. In addition, New Valley may lack relevant management experience in the areas in which New Valley may invest. There is a risk that New Valley will fail in targeting, consummating or effectively integrating or managing any of these investments.

We depend on our key personnel.

We depend on the efforts of our executive officers and other key personnel. While we believe that we could find replacements for these key personnel, the loss of their services could have a significant adverse effect on our operations.

While we believe our controls systems are effective, there are inherent limitations in all control systems, and misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected.

We continue to take action to assure compliance with the internal controls, disclosure controls and other requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. Our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, cannot guarantee that our internal controls and disclosure controls will prevent all possible errors or all fraud. A control system, no matter how well conceived and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the control system are met. In addition, the design of a control system must reflect the fact that there are resource constraints and the benefit of controls must be relative to their costs. Because of the inherent limitations in all control systems, no system of controls can provide absolute assurance that all controls issues and instances of fraud, if any, within our company have been detected. These inherent limitations include the realities that judgments in decision-making can be faulty and that breakdowns can occur because of simple error or mistake. Further, controls can be circumvented by individual acts of some persons, by collusion of two or more persons, or by management override of the controls. The design of any system of controls also is based in part upon certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events, and there can be no assurance that any design will succeed in achieving its stated goals under all potential future conditions. Over time, a control may be inadequate because of changes in conditions or the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate. Because of inherent limitations in a cost-effective control system, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected.

Table of Contents

The price of our common stock may fluctuate significantly, and this may make it difficult for you to resell the shares of our common stock issuable upon exchange when you want or at prices you find attractive.

The trading price of our common stock has ranged between \$20.82 and \$14.29 per share over the past 52 weeks. We expect that the market price of our common stock will continue to fluctuate.

The market price of our common stock may fluctuate in response to numerous factors, many of which are beyond our control. These factors include the following:

actual or anticipated fluctuations in our operating results;

changes in expectations as to our future financial performance, including financial estimates by securities analysts and investors;

the operating and stock performance of our competitors;

announcements by us or our competitors of new products or services or significant contracts, acquisitions, strategic partnerships, joint ventures or capital commitments;

the initiation or outcome of litigation;

changes in interest rates;

general economic, market and political conditions;

additions or departures of key personnel; and

future sales of our equity or convertible securities.

We cannot predict the extent, if any, to which future sales of shares of common stock or the availability of shares of common stock for future sale may depress the trading price of our common stock.

In addition, the stock market in recent years has experienced extreme price and trading volume fluctuations that often have been unrelated or disproportionate to the operating performance of individual companies. These broad market fluctuations may adversely affect the price of our common stock, regardless of our operating performance. Furthermore, stockholders may initiate securities class action lawsuits if the market price of our stock drops significantly, which may cause us to incur substantial costs and could divert the time and attention of our management. These factors, among others, could significantly depress the price of our common stock issued upon exchange.

We have many potentially dilutive securities outstanding.

At December 31, 2004, we had outstanding options granted to employees to purchase approximately 9,292,462 shares of our common stock, at prices ranging from \$6.93 to \$35.81 per share, of which options for 8,897,497 shares were exercisable at December 31, 2004. We also have outstanding two series of convertible notes maturing in July 2008 and November 2011, which are currently convertible into 12,042,939 shares of our common stock. The issuance of these shares will cause dilution which may adversely affect the market price of our common stock. The availability for sale of significant quantities of our common stock could adversely affect the prevailing market price of the stock.

Table of Contents

FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

In addition to historical information, this Prospectus contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the federal securities laws. Forward-looking statements include information relating to our intent, belief or current expectations, primarily with respect to, but not limited to:

economic outlook;

capital expenditures;

cost reduction;

new legislation;

cash flows;

operating performance;

litigation;

impairment charges and cost savings associated with restructurings of our tobacco operations; and

related industry developments (including trends affecting our business, financial condition and results of operations).

We identify forward-looking statements in this Prospectus by using words or phrases such as anticipate, believe, estimate, expect, intend, may be, objective, plan, seek, predict, project and will be and similar words and their negatives.

The forward-looking information involves important risks and uncertainties that could cause our actual results, performance or achievements to differ materially from our anticipated results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those suggested by the forward-looking statements include, without limitation, the following:

general economic and market conditions and any changes therein, due to acts of war and terrorism or otherwise;

governmental regulations and policies;

effects of industry competition;

impact of business combinations, including acquisitions and divestitures, both internally for us and externally in the tobacco industry;

impact of restructurings on our tobacco business and our ability to achieve any increases in profitability estimated to occur as a result of these restructurings;

impact of new legislation on our competitors' payment obligations, results of operations and product costs, *i.e.*, the impact of recent federal legislation eliminating the federal tobacco quota system;

uncertainty related to litigation and potential additional payment obligations for us under the Master Settlement Agreement and other settlement agreements with the states; and

risks inherent in our new product development initiatives.

Further information on risks and uncertainties specific to our business include the risk factors discussed above under **Risk Factors** and in **Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations** incorporated by reference into this Prospectus.

Although we believe the expectations reflected in these forward-looking statements are based on reasonable assumptions, there is a risk that these expectations will not be attained and that any deviations will be material. The forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made.

Table of Contents

BACKGROUND AND REASONS FOR THE OFFER AND SUBSEQUENT MERGER

The following discussion presents background information concerning the offer and the subsequent merger and describes our reasons for undertaking the proposed transaction at the present time. Please see Additional Factors for Consideration by New Valley Stockholders beginning on page 41 for further information relating to the proposed transaction.

Vector's Long-Term Investment in New Valley

In a series of transactions commencing in 1987, we and various predecessor companies of ours acquired an indirect controlling equity interest in New Valley, which was then named Western Union Corporation. The investments were made in connection with various restructurings of Western Union Corporation's debt and equity capital. In 1991, bankruptcy proceedings were commenced against New Valley. In January 1995, when New Valley emerged from bankruptcy, we owned approximately 42% of New Valley's common shares and 43% of New Valley's Class A preferred stock. As part of the reorganization, New Valley sold the Western Union money transfer and messaging service businesses and all allowed claims in the bankruptcy were paid in full.

In 1999, New Valley consummated a plan of recapitalization pursuant to which all of its common and preferred shares were converted into common shares and warrants of New Valley, and our ownership of New Valley's common shares increased from 42.3% to 55.1%. We currently own 57.7% of the outstanding common shares of New Valley.

Key Factors Motivating the Offer

A number of factors have led to our decision to undertake the offer and subsequent merger at the present time. Some of the key factors are as follows:

the potential to realize synergies and cost savings;

the potential to more efficiently utilize the New Valley consolidated tax group's tax loss and credit carryforwards before they begin to expire; and

the opportunity to minimize potential conflicts of interest.

Potential to Realize Synergies and Cost Savings

We believe that there would be opportunities to reduce Vector's and New Valley's pretax costs by between approximately \$1,000,000 and \$2,000,000 a year by eliminating unnecessary functions and activities. We anticipate that these significant cost savings could be achieved through the following steps:

eliminating redundant overhead, administration and other costs relating to each entity's status as a public company, including estimated potential cost savings related to directors' fees (\$330,000 to \$350,000), accounting and legal expense (\$250,000 to \$750,000), insurance (\$250,000 to \$400,000) and state franchise taxes (\$200,000 to \$365,000); and

reducing the aggregate number of stockholders of both companies and eliminating annual report and proxy printing and mailing costs based on fewer stockholders of the combined companies (estimated potential cost savings of approximately \$200,000 to \$300,000).

Potential to More Efficiently Utilize the New Valley Consolidated Tax Group's Tax Loss and Credit Carryforwards

Until 2005, Vector had been utilizing its tax loss carryforward to reduce its taxable income and has now used all of its available tax loss carryforwards. The New Valley consolidated tax group currently has an aggregate of \$137,500,000 in tax loss carryforwards, approximately \$43,500,000 of which expire in 2006 and 2007. The New Valley consolidated tax group also has approximately \$14,000,000 of tax credit carryforwards. Historically, the New Valley consolidated tax group has not been able to fully utilize its tax loss and credit carryforwards because the group has not earned enough taxable income and, based on current and anticipated operating results, Vector does not currently believe that the New Valley consolidated tax group will be able to fully utilize the tax loss carryforwards which expire in 2006 and

Table of Contents

2007. After the offer and subsequent merger, members of the New Valley consolidated tax group will become members of the Vector consolidated tax group. Despite its recent net operating losses in 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004, Vector believes it should be able to use the New Valley consolidated tax group's tax loss and credit carryforwards to offset certain Vector group income that is generated by Vector's tobacco businesses after members of the New Valley consolidated tax group join the Vector consolidated tax group. The New Valley consolidated tax group also has net cumulative differences where the tax basis of its assets exceeds the book basis by approximately \$23,500,000, which could produce tax benefits for the Vector consolidated tax group after completion of the offer and subsequent merger. As a Vector stockholder, former New Valley stockholders will receive a proportionate benefit from this potential tax savings, which they would not otherwise receive unless the New Valley consolidated tax group was able to generate taxable income.

Minimizing Potential Conflicts of Interest

We believe that among the benefits of the proposed transaction with New Valley is the elimination of the potential for conflicts of interest between Vector and New Valley. Consequently, time and resources can be focused on the combined business as opposed to general corporate governance concerns. You should review *Interests of Certain Persons in the Offer and Subsequent Merger* beginning on page 72 for a description of arrangements between Vector and New Valley and between New Valley and directors and executive officers of New Valley.

If conflicts of interest between New Valley and Vector were to develop, there would be increased risk of claims for breach of fiduciary duty against the officers of Vector who serve as directors of New Valley. An additional benefit of the subsequent merger to Vector would be the elimination of the possibility of claims as to future activities being made against these Vector officers or that they could be found liable for damages for breach of fiduciary duty. By virtue of its obligation to indemnify its officers who serve as directors of New Valley at Vector's request, Vector would be responsible for defending and indemnifying such officers against any such claims or liabilities.

Financial Impact of the Offer on Vector

As part of the offer and the subsequent merger, Vector would issue up to approximately 5,082,000 shares of common stock (or, if all New Valley stock options vest and are exercised, up to a maximum of 5,193,000 shares of Vector common stock would be issued). The acquisition of New Valley is expected to be immediately accretive to Vector's cash earnings. Furthermore, we anticipate the acquisition would increase access to available annual cash flow as a result of utilizing the tax loss carryforwards, which could be reinvested in Vector's or New Valley's businesses or used for debt reduction or dividend payments.

No Prior Discussions Relating to Potential Extraordinary Transaction

From time to time prior to the announcement of our offer on September 27, 2005, the management and directors of Vector considered the desirability of acquiring the common shares of New Valley not owned by Vector. Prior to the announcement of the offer, Vector did not make any proposals to New Valley or its board of directors regarding Vector's acquisition of the minority interest in New Valley. Vector's decision to proceed with the offer, and to announce it on September 27, 2005, was made without the participation of New Valley's board of directors or its management.

Vector Board's September 27, 2005 Decision to Commence the Offer

Our board of directors held a meeting on September 27, 2005 to determine whether to proceed with the offer and subsequent merger, and to determine an exchange ratio for the offer. In evaluating this decision, our board considered many factors. Our board believed that greater value could be achieved for both Vector and New Valley stockholders by combining Vector's and New Valley's business operations. In our board's judgment, the proposed offer and subsequent merger would yield significant efficiencies and, by fully integrating New Valley into Vector, New Valley stockholders would be able to share in a greater scope of opportunities than are available to them solely as New Valley stockholders. As a result of

Table of Contents

exchanging their common shares of New Valley for shares of Vector common stock, New Valley stockholders would have access to cash dividends, which are not currently paid by New Valley, and greater liquidity for their shares by holding the more widely traded Vector common stock. Accordingly, we believe that both existing Vector stockholders and New Valley stockholders who receive shares of Vector common stock in this transaction would benefit from our successful execution of these strategies, and that we can realize greater long-term stockholder value as a combined company.

In evaluating its decision whether to pursue the offer and subsequent merger, our board considered many factors that were relevant to its decision, including (i) the potential costs savings and synergies that could be obtained by combining Vector and New Valley, (ii) the current market prices and trading volumes of Vector common stock and New Valley common shares relative to their respective recent trading histories, and (iii) the financial analyses of New Valley prepared by Jefferies & Company, Inc., or Jefferies, our board's financial advisor, which were presented to the board at its September 27, 2005 meeting.

Jefferies' financial analyses of New Valley and the effects of a consummated transaction that were presented to the board at its September 27, 2005 meeting consisted of (i) a discounted cash flow analysis of New Valley which resulted in an estimated value range per share of New Valley common shares of \$8.83 to \$9.90 per share, (ii) an accretion and dilution analysis which demonstrated that a consummated transaction would be accretive to Vector's estimated EPS (after giving effect to the pro forma tax savings) in calendar years 2005 and 2006 by \$0.72 and \$0.55 per share, respectively, and (iii) a balance sheet asset/liability analysis which resulted in an estimated value per common share of New Valley of \$9.47. In connection with the balance sheet asset/liability analysis that Jefferies presented to the board at its September 27, 2005 meeting, our board discussed, among other things, the contemplated issuance of 500,000 shares of Vector common stock to Mr. Lorber in connection with his being elected as our Chief Executive Officer effective January 1, 2006, that could be deemed to equate to an additional cost to us of \$0.43 per common share of New Valley and the following items which were open to subjective assumptions and included as assets of New Valley in the Jefferies' analysis:

\$22,917,434 for the present value of the New Valley consolidated tax group's tax loss carryforwards available to an unaffiliated third party acquiror. Our board discussed its view that this present value was potentially too high because of the perceived uncertainty that the tax loss carryforwards could be fully utilized by such unaffiliated third party acquirer due to, among other things, the fact that the applicable tax laws and tax rates could change and the risk that such acquirer would not have sufficient taxable income in order to fully utilize the benefit of the tax loss carryforwards during the required period.

the value that Jefferies ascribed to New Valley's pending *Westar* litigation. Our board discussed its view that this present value may be too high due to, among other things, the perceived risk of New Valley obtaining a final judgment or settlement in its favor, the timing and ability of New Valley collecting on any such judgment or settlement, and the probability of New Valley incurring more legal expenses than previously estimated in order to collect on any such judgment or settlement. The board noted that an interim decision by the trial court in this case was rendered in New Valley's favor on August 19, 2005 regarding the liability of the United States government, but not the amount of damages for which the government might be liable.

\$5,888,889 for the estimated value of the shares of Ladenburg Thalmann Financial Services Inc., or Ladenburg Thalmann, owned by New Valley based on the current market price of the shares. Our board discussed its view that using the current market price to estimate the current value of the shares was aggressive, and suggested that the current market price should be discounted due to, among other things, the relative lack of liquidity in Ladenburg Thalmann stock given its historically modest trading volume, the fact that New Valley owns approximately 10% of Ladenburg Thalmann, making a sale of its shares of Ladenburg Thalmann on the open market more difficult, and the recent publicly reported operating results of Ladenburg Thalmann.

Table of Contents

\$4,600,686 for the present value of the note receivable from Ladenburg Thalmann. Our board discussed its view that this present value was potentially too high due to, among other things, Ladenburg Thalmann's recent publicly reported operating results and the perceived risks of Ladenburg Thalmann's ability to make timely payment of principal and interest on the note through December 31, 2008.

\$10,672,500 valuation for New Valley's interest in Koa Investors. Our board discussed its view that this value was higher than the value of Koa Investors determined by Jefferies using a discounted cash flow valuation methodology.

In view of the wide variety of factors considered by our board in evaluating the proposed offer and subsequent merger and the complexity of these matters, our board did not find it practicable to, and did not attempt to, quantify, rank or otherwise assign relative weight to the foregoing items. In addition, different members of our board may have given different weight to different items.

Based on the foregoing considerations, our board determined that the exchange ratio for the proposed exchange offer should reflect a value for each common share of New Valley of \$9.00. Accordingly, based on the closing price of Vector's stock for September 26, 2005, the prior trading day, our board determined that the exchange ratio for the proposed exchange offer should be set at 0.461 shares of Vector common stock for each common share of New Valley.

Jefferies then delivered to our board its oral opinion as investment bankers, subsequently confirmed in writing, to the effect that, as of September 27, 2005 and based upon and subject to the various considerations and assumptions set forth therein, the exchange ratio of 0.461 shares of Vector common stock to be issued in exchange for each common share of New Valley was fair, from a financial point of view, to Vector.

Our board then authorized us to propose the offer and subsequent merger in which New Valley's public stockholders would be offered 0.461 of a share of Vector common stock in exchange for each validly tendered common share of New Valley owned by stockholders of New Valley other than VGR Holding and its affiliates. Messrs. Howard M. Lorber and Henry C. Beinstein, two of our directors who are also significant New Valley stockholders, did not participate in any discussion of whether to commence the offer or the determination of the proposed exchange ratio for the offer and subsequent merger.

After the September 27, 2005 board meeting, Bennett S. LeBow, Vector's Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer, delivered a letter to the New Valley board outlining the offer. Simultaneously, we issued a press release disclosing to the public the offer and its material terms. The following is the text of Mr. LeBow's letter to the New Valley board:

September 27, 2005

The Board of Directors
New Valley Corporation
100 S.E. Second Street
Miami, Florida 33131
Gentlemen:

It has become clear to us that the best interests of our respective stockholders will be served by Vector's acquisition of the outstanding shares of New Valley that we do not already own. We believe that a full combination of our businesses will yield significant efficiencies and, by fully integrating New Valley into the Vector family of operations, New Valley stockholders will be able to share in a greater scope of opportunities than are available to them as New Valley stockholders. New Valley shareholders will become owners of a company with solid cash flow and an attractive dividend yield. In addition, the transaction will provide New Valley stockholders with an immediate premium for their shares and a currency that has substantially greater liquidity than New Valley has been able to provide.

Table of Contents

As evidenced by Vector's long history with New Valley, we are not interested in selling our shares in New Valley. Moreover, if the two companies are combined, we expect important cost savings will be realized and that the transaction would be immediately accretive to Vector's cash earnings.

Consequently, our Board of Directors has authorized us to make an exchange offer pursuant to which the stockholders of New Valley (other than VGR Holding Inc.) will be offered 0.461 shares of common stock of Vector for each outstanding share of New Valley common stock they own in a transaction designed to be tax-free. Based on the \$19.54 closing price of Vector's shares on September 26, 2005, our offer provides a value of approximately \$9.00 per share of New Valley common stock and a 21% premium to the closing price of New Valley common stock on that date.

Vector's offer is being made directly to New Valley's stockholders. We believe that it will be favorably received by them due to the substantial premium to New Valley's market price, the attractiveness of Vector stock and the opportunity for greater liquidity. New Valley stockholders, through their ownership of Vector common stock, will continue to participate in New Valley's business.

Our offer will be conditioned on the tender of a sufficient number of shares of New Valley common stock such that, after the offer is completed, we will own at least 90% of the outstanding shares of New Valley common stock and other customary conditions. Assuming that the conditions to the offer are satisfied and that the offer is completed, we will then effect a short form merger of New Valley with a subsidiary of Vector as soon as practicable thereafter. In this merger, the remaining New Valley public stockholders will receive the same consideration as in the exchange offer, except for those stockholders who choose to exercise their appraisal rights.

We intend to file our offering materials with the Securities and Exchange Commission and commence our exchange offer on or about October 12, 2005. Vector is not seeking, and as the offer is being made directly to New Valley's stockholders, Delaware law does not require approval of the offer from New Valley's Board of Directors. We, however, encourage you to consult with your outside counsel as to the obligations of New Valley's Board of Directors under the U.S. tender offer rules to advise the stockholders of your recommendation with respect to our offer. Also, enclosed is a copy of the press release that we are issuing in connection with the offer.

Sincerely,

/s/ Bennett S. LeBow

Bennett S. LeBow
Chairman of the Board of Directors and
Chief Executive Officer

On September 28, 2005, New Valley announced that it was in receipt of Mr. LeBow's letter. Then, on September 30, 2005, New Valley announced that a special committee of its board of directors, comprised solely of independent directors, would evaluate our exchange offer and retain an independent financial advisor and legal counsel.

On October 12, 2005, at the request of the special committee of the board of directors of New Valley, we announced that we were postponing the commencement of our offer and that we expected to file offering materials with the SEC on or about October 19, 2005 and to commence our offer shortly thereafter. On October 18, 2005, we declined a request of the special committee to further postpone the commencement of our offer.

Table of Contents

On October 19, 2005, the special committee announced that it had engaged The Blackstone Group L.P., or Blackstone, as financial advisors, and Kirkland & Ellis LLP, or Kirkland & Ellis, as legal advisor to assist in its evaluation of our offer. One day prior, on October 18, 2005, representatives of Blackstone and Kirkland & Ellis sent to Vector's advisors their information and interview request lists related to the due diligence review that they intended to undertake on behalf of the special committee.

On October 20, 2005, we commenced the offer to exchange 0.461 shares of Vector common stock for each common share of New Valley.

Events After Commencement of Our Offer

Also on October 20, 2005, representatives of Blackstone and Kirkland & Ellis scheduled a series of meetings with Vector and New Valley in response to their due diligence requests.

On October 24, 2005, representatives of New Valley, Blackstone and Kirkland & Ellis held the first of their informational meetings at New Valley's and Vector's offices in New York City. At this meeting, representatives of New Valley gave a presentation on its real estate and real estate-related holdings.

On October 25, 2005, representatives of Vector, Blackstone and Kirkland & Ellis held the second of their informational meetings at New Valley's and Vector's offices in New York City. At this meeting, representatives of Vector gave a presentation on its tobacco businesses. In addition, on October 25, 2005, Vector representatives and its outside counsel gave a presentation by teleconference to representatives of Kirkland & Ellis and Blackstone regarding Vector's litigation related to tobacco products.

On October 27, 2005, on two separate calls, representatives of Vector and New Valley and its outside counsel gave presentations by teleconference to representatives of Blackstone and Kirkland & Ellis regarding tax matters affecting Vector and New Valley and other litigation affecting New Valley, respectively.

On November 2, 2005, the special committee filed a Solicitation/Recommendation Statement on Schedule 14D-9, or Schedule 14D-9, in which the special committee stated that it had determined on behalf of the New Valley board of directors that our original offer to exchange 0.461 shares of Vector common stock for each common share of New Valley was inadequate and not in the best interests of the holders of common shares of New Valley, other than Vector and its affiliates. Accordingly, the special committee recommended that holders of common shares of New Valley reject our original offer and not tender their common shares pursuant to our original offer.

On November 3, 2005, Vector issued the following statement in response to the recommendation by the special committee of the New Valley board of directors that New Valley stockholders not tender into our original offer:

We are disappointed by the special committee's decision recommending against our premium offer of \$9 per share in Vector Group stock, which we believe represents compelling value for all New Valley shareholders. We are eager for New Valley shareholders—once they have had the opportunity to review our exchange offer materials—to make their own determination on the merits of our offer.

Due to the 90% tender requirement, it is highly unlikely that Vector will be able to close this transaction unless all significant New Valley shareholders tender into the offer. If the 90% tender requirement is not satisfied, there can be no second-step short form merger and, consequently, no appraisal rights.

On November 4, 2005, representatives of Blackstone spoke with representatives of Jefferies to exchange perspectives regarding the offer and subsequent merger.

On November 7, 2005 we announced that we extended the offer until 5:00 p.m. on December 9, 2005.

Table of Contents

Also on November 7, 2005, we mailed our proxy statement to Vector stockholders in connection with their vote to approve the issuance by Vector of its common stock in the offer and the subsequent merger.

On November 9, 2005, counsel to plaintiff in the *Pill* action, along with plaintiff's financial adviser, made a financial valuation presentation concerning New Valley to representatives of Vector, along with counsel to Vector. During this presentation, plaintiff's counsel and financial advisor expressed, among other things, their view that Jefferies' discounted cash flow analysis was too low because it should not have used the amount of \$100 - \$110 million as the terminal value of Koa Investors subject to discount to present value; that the present value of Koa Investors is approximately \$105 million; and that the use of \$105 million as the present value for Koa Investors would have produced a higher range of values.

During the week of November 7, 2005, representatives of Vector contacted representatives of a limited group of large New Valley stockholders to discuss their views regarding an amended exchange ratio for the offer. On November 9, 2005, we delivered a draft agreement to tender to this limited group of New Valley stockholders. Also on November 9, 2005, representatives from Jefferies informed representatives from Blackstone that Vector was negotiating with this limited group of large New Valley stockholders and was considering increasing the exchange ratio. Over the next several days, representatives of Vector and some of these large stockholders discussed the terms of the agreement to tender. Thereafter, on November 15, 2005, we delivered a final form agreement to tender to this limited group of large New Valley stockholders. This agreement included a proposed increased exchange ratio of 0.54, which was the highest exchange ratio that Vector management would be prepared to recommend to the Vector board of directors. These large New Valley stockholders were informed that if a sufficient number of them indicated a willingness to enter into the agreement to tender based on the proposed exchange ratio of 0.54 by sending their signatures to Vector, Vector management would be in a position to recommend this increased exchange ratio to the Vector board of directors. Subsequently, representatives from Jefferies informed representatives from Blackstone of these proposed agreements to tender and the conditions under which Vector's management would be prepared to recommend to Vector's board that the exchange ratio be increased to 0.54.

Vector Board's November 16, 2005 Decision to Increase the Exchange Ratio

Our board of directors held a meeting on November 16, 2005 to determine whether to increase the exchange ratio for the offer and the subsequent merger. In evaluating this decision, the board considered many factors, including those previously considered at its September 27, 2005 meeting. The board reconfirmed its belief discussed at its September 27, 2005 meeting that greater value could be achieved for both Vector and New Valley stockholders by combining Vector's and New Valley's business operations. The board also reconfirmed its belief that the offer and subsequent merger would yield significant efficiencies and, by fully integrating New Valley into Vector, New Valley stockholders would be able to share in a greater scope of opportunities than are available to them solely as New Valley stockholders.

In evaluating its decision whether to pursue the increased offer and subsequent merger, our board considered many factors that were relevant to its decision, including (i) the current market prices and trading volumes of Vector common stock and New Valley common shares relative to their respective recent trading histories, (ii) the fact that as of the board meeting several large stockholders of New Valley, who in the aggregate owned approximately 27% of the outstanding New Valley common shares, had indicated their willingness to enter into agreements to tender their common shares of New Valley into our offer in exchange for our agreement to increase the exchange ratio to 0.54 for all stockholders of New Valley, (iii) the fact that the special committee had determined that our original exchange offer of 0.461 was inadequate, and (iv) the updated financial analyses of New Valley prepared by Jefferies, which were presented to the board and which are summarized below under the caption *Opinion of Jefferies*. Jefferies financial analyses of New Valley and the effects of a consummated transaction that were presented to the board consisted of (i) a discounted cash flow analysis of New Valley which resulted in an estimated value range per share of New Valley common shares of \$9.38 to \$10.43 per share, (ii) an accretion and dilution analysis which demonstrated that a consummated transaction would be accretive to Vector's estimated EPS (after giving

Table of Contents

effect to the pro forma tax savings) in calendar years 2005 and 2006 by \$0.70 and \$0.53 per share, respectively, (iii) a balance sheet asset/liability analysis which resulted in an estimated value per common share of New Valley of \$9.85, and (iv) as part of Jefferies' analyses, consideration by Jefferies of an additional estimated \$2.02 per share of incremental value that our management expected to realize from the offer and subsequent merger as compared to a third party purchaser. In connection with the balance sheet asset/liability analysis that Jefferies presented to the board, our board discussed, among other things, the issuance of 500,000 restricted shares of Vector common stock on September 27, 2005 and the contemplated issuance of an additional 78,570 restricted shares of Vector common stock to Mr. Lorber on November 16, 2005, in connection with his being elected as our Chief Executive Officer effective January 1, 2006, that could be deemed to equate to an additional cost to us of \$0.45 per common share of New Valley as well as the same items described under "Vector Board's September 27, 2005 Decision to Commence the Offer" which were open to subjective assumptions and included as assets of New Valley in the Jefferies' analysis. The board also noted that the amounts of these items included in the Jefferies' balance sheet asset/liability analysis had been updated by Jefferies. These items included the present value of the New Valley consolidated tax group's tax loss carryforwards available to an unaffiliated third party acquiror, the value that Jefferies ascribed to New Valley's pending *Westar* litigation, the estimated value of the shares of Ladenburg Thalmann owned by New Valley based on the current market price of such shares, the present value of the note receivable from Ladenburg Thalmann and the valuation for New Valley's interest in Koa Investors.

Based on the foregoing considerations, our board determined that the exchange ratio for the increased exchange offer should be 0.54 shares of Vector common stock for each New Valley common share, reflecting a value for each New Valley common share of \$10.82 based on the closing price of Vector's common stock on November 16, 2005.

Jefferies then delivered to our board its oral opinion as investment bankers, subsequently confirmed in writing, to the effect that, as of such date and based upon and subject to the various considerations and assumptions set forth therein, the exchange ratio of 0.54 shares of Vector common stock to be issued in exchange for each common share of New Valley was fair, from a financial point of view, to Vector. Please see "Opinion of Jefferies" beginning on page 33 for further information relating to this topic.

As occurred during the September 27, 2005 board meeting, neither Mr. Lorber nor Mr. Beinstein, two of our directors who are also significant New Valley stockholders, participated in this board discussion to increase the exchange ratio for the offer and subsequent merger.

Also on November 16, 2005 and prior to our public announcement of the increased exchange offer, counsel for the special committee contacted counsel for Vector in order to request that Vector eliminate certain conditions to our offer and modify other remaining conditions to our offer that the special committee had determined were potentially harmful to New Valley stockholders.

Thereafter, on November 16, 2005, we announced the revised exchange ratio of 0.54 shares of Vector common stock for each New Valley common share.

On November 17, 2005, counsel to Vector delivered proposed amendments of the original conditions to our offer to the special committee's counsel in response to the request on November 16, 2005. These proposed amendments have been included in this prospectus as the current conditions to our offer. See "The Offer" Conditions to the Offer beginning on page 64. Over the next several days, counsel to Vector and counsel to the special committee discussed procedures to enable the special committee to make a determination regarding our revised exchange ratio of 0.54. On November 21, 2005, Messrs. LeBow and Lampen, on behalf of Vector, and Mr. Burns, on behalf of the special committee, also discussed briefly these proposed procedures. Later on November 21, 2005, we delivered to the special committee a substantially complete copy of this Prospectus.

On November 22, 2005, the special committee issued a press release in which the special committee stated that it had determined on behalf of the New Valley board of directors that our revised offer at an exchange ratio of 0.54 was fair to the holders of common shares of New Valley, other than Vector and its

Table of Contents

affiliates, and will recommend that holders of common shares of New Valley tender their common shares pursuant to our revised offer.

Opinion of Jefferies

Vector engaged Jefferies pursuant to an engagement letter dated as of September 27, 2005 to serve as its financial advisor in connection with the offer. On November 16, 2005, Jefferies rendered to Vector's board its opinion as investment bankers to the effect that, as of that date and based upon and subject to the various considerations and assumptions set forth therein, the revised exchange ratio of 0.54 shares of Vector common stock for each outstanding common share of New Valley to be offered by VGR Holding in the offer was fair, from a financial point of view, to Vector.

The full text of the Jefferies opinion delivered to the Vector board, which sets forth the assumptions made, matters considered and limitations on the scope of review undertaken by Jefferies in rendering its opinion, is attached hereto as Annex D. Vector and Vector's board encourage Vector stockholders to read the Jefferies opinion carefully and in its entirety. The summary of the Jefferies opinion in this Prospectus is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of the Jefferies opinion. The Jefferies opinion was provided to Vector's board in connection with its consideration of the offer, and therefore addresses only the fairness to Vector, from a financial point of view and as of the date of the Jefferies opinion, of the exchange ratio to be offered by VGR Holding in the offer. The Jefferies opinion does not (1) address the fairness of the exchange ratio to the New Valley stockholders or any other aspect of the offer, or (2) constitute a recommendation as to (i) how any Vector stockholder should vote on the issuance of shares of Vector common stock or any other matter relevant to the offer, or (ii) whether any New Valley stockholder should tender their common shares of New Valley in the offer. Jefferies did not establish the exchange ratio, which was determined by Vector's board.

In connection with its opinion, Jefferies, among other things,:

- reviewed Vector's and New Valley's operations and prospects;

- reviewed certain financial and other information about Vector and New Valley that was publicly available;

- reviewed information furnished by Vector's management, including certain internal financial analyses, financial forecasts with respect to Vector and New Valley, budgets, reports and other information;

- based on information provided to Jefferies by Vector's management and outside advisors concerning the tax assets of New Valley and the treatment of New Valley's net operating losses after giving effect to the short form merger upon completion of the offer, considered the value of New Valley's tax assets to Vector after giving effect to the offer and the subsequent merger;

- considered written waivers from certain officers of New Valley waiving rights to severance and other benefits to which they would otherwise be entitled arising from completion of the short form merger upon completion of the offer;

- held discussions with various members of Vector's management concerning historical and current operations, financial conditions and prospects, including recent financial performance;

- reviewed the share trading price history of Vector and New Valley for a period Jefferies deemed appropriate;

- reviewed the valuation of the New Valley implied by the exchange ratio;

- reviewed the premiums paid in selected acquisition transactions;

- prepared a discounted cash flow analysis of New Valley on a stand-alone basis; and

reviewed an analysis of the combined entity and the resulting earnings accretion/dilution.

In addition, Jefferies conducted such other quantitative reviews, analyses and inquiries relating to Vector and New Valley as Jefferies considered appropriate in rendering its opinion. Jefferies noted that it

Table of Contents

did not have the opportunity to review any non-public information of or financial forecasts provided by New Valley other than such information and financial forecasts provided to Jefferies by Vector.

In its review and analysis and in rendering its opinion, Jefferies assumed and relied upon, but has not assumed any responsibility to independently investigate or verify, the accuracy, completeness and fair presentation of all financial and other information that was provided to Jefferies by Vector or that was publicly available (including, without limitation, the information described in the bullet points above), or that was otherwise reviewed by Jefferies. Jefferies opinion was expressly conditioned upon such information, whether written or oral, being complete, accurate and fair in all respects material to its analysis.

With respect to the financial forecasts provided to and examined by Jefferies, Jefferies noted that projecting future results of any company is inherently subject to uncertainty. Vector informed Jefferies, however, and Jefferies assumed, that such financial forecasts were reasonably prepared on bases reflecting the best currently available estimates and good faith judgments of Vector's management as to the future performance of Vector and New Valley, respectively. Jefferies expressed no opinion as to Vector's or New Valley's financial forecasts or the assumptions on which they were made. In addition, in rendering its opinion Jefferies assumed that each of Vector and New Valley will perform in accordance with such financial forecasts for all periods specified therein. Although such financial forecasts did not form the principal basis for Jefferies' opinion, but rather constituted one of many items that it employed, changes to such financial forecasts could affect its opinion.

In its review, Jefferies did not obtain any independent evaluation or appraisal of the assets or liabilities of, nor did it conduct a comprehensive physical inspection of any of the assets of, Vector or New Valley, nor was Jefferies furnished with any such evaluations or appraisals or reports of such physical inspections, nor did Jefferies assume any responsibility to obtain any such evaluations, appraisals or inspections. Jefferies' opinion was based on economic, monetary, regulatory, market and other conditions existing and which could be evaluated as of the date thereof. Jefferies expressly disclaimed any undertaking or obligation to advise any person of any change in any fact or matter affecting its opinion of which Jefferies became aware after the date of its opinion. Jefferies made no independent investigation of any legal or accounting matters affecting Vector or New Valley, and Jefferies assumed the correctness in all respects material to its analysis of all legal and accounting advice given to Vector and Vector's board, including, without limitation, advice as to the legal, accounting and tax consequences (including, but not limited to, the treatment of New Valley's net operating losses after giving effect to the subsequent merger upon completion of the offer) of the terms of the offer to Vector.

Jefferies' opinion was for the use and benefit of Vector's board in its consideration of the offer, and its opinion did not address the relative merits of the offer and subsequent merger as compared to any alternative transactions that might be available to Vector, nor did it address the underlying business decision by Vector to engage in the offer. Jefferies expressed no opinion as to the price at which Vector's common stock will trade at any future time.

In preparing its opinion, Jefferies performed a variety of financial and comparative analyses. The preparation of a fairness opinion is a complex process involving various determinations as to the most appropriate and relevant quantitative and qualitative methods of financial analysis and the applications of those methods to the particular circumstances and, therefore, is not necessarily susceptible to partial analysis or summary description. Jefferies believes that its analyses must be considered as a whole. Considering any portion of its analyses and of the factors considered by it, without considering all analyses and factors, could create a misleading or incomplete view of the process underlying the conclusion expressed in its opinion.

In addition, Jefferies may have given various analyses more or less weight than other analyses, and may have deemed various assumptions more or less probable than other assumptions, so that the range of valuation resulting from any particular analysis described below should not be taken to be Jefferies' view of Vector's or New Valley's actual value. Accordingly, the conclusions reached by Jefferies are based on all

Table of Contents

analyses and factors taken as a whole and also on the application of Jefferies' own experience and judgment.

In performing its analyses, Jefferies made numerous assumptions with respect to industry performance, general business and economic conditions and other matters, many of which are beyond Vector's and Jefferies' control. The analyses performed by Jefferies are not necessarily indicative of actual values or actual future results, which may be significantly more or less favorable than suggested by such analyses. In addition, analyses relating to the value of businesses or assets do not purport to be appraisals or to necessarily reflect the prices at which businesses or assets may actually be sold and are inherently subject to uncertainty. The analyses performed were prepared solely as part of Jefferies' analysis of the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the exchange ratio and were provided to Vector's board in connection with the delivery of Jefferies' opinion.

The following is a summary of the material financial and comparative analyses performed by Jefferies that was presented to Vector's board on November 16, 2005 in connection with the delivery of its opinion dated as of that date. The financial analyses summarized below include information presented in tabular format. In order to fully understand Jefferies' financial analyses, the tables must be read together with the text of each summary. The tables alone do not constitute a complete description of the financial analyses. Considering the data described below without considering the full narrative description of the financial analyses, including the methodologies and assumptions underlying the analyses, could create a misleading or incomplete view of Jefferies' financial analyses.

Transaction Overview. Based upon the closing price per share of Vector's common stock on November 15, 2005 of \$19.97 and an exchange ratio of 0.54 shares of Vector's common stock to be issued in exchange for each issued and outstanding common share of New Valley that VGR Holding does not already own, Jefferies noted that the implied value of the consideration to be issued in the offer per common share of New Valley was \$10.78 per share, which is referred to as the Implied Share Purchase Price. Based upon the Implied Share Purchase Price of \$10.78 and approximately 22.466 million common shares of New Valley outstanding on a fully diluted basis, Jefferies also noted that the implied aggregate equity value of New Valley was approximately \$242.3 million.

Jefferies compared the Implied Share Purchase Price of \$10.78 to the daily closing price for New Valley common shares on September 27, 2005, the date on which Vector originally announced its intention to commence the exchange offer, and over various periods ending on that date and noted the following implied offer premiums:

Implied Offer Premiums

Time Period Ending September 26, 2005	New Valley Common Shares Closing Price	Premium Implied by Implied Share Purchase Price of \$10.78
September 27, 2005	\$ 7.45	