

MARSH & MCLENNAN COMPANIES, INC.

Form 424B2

July 12, 2011

Table of Contents

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2)
Registration No. 333-161797

The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement is not complete and may change. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not an offer to sell these securities and we are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

PRELIMINARY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED JULY 12, 2011

Prospectus Supplement

, 2011

(To Prospectus Dated September 8, 2009)

\$

Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc.

% Senior Notes due

We will pay interest on the notes on _____ and _____ of each year, beginning on _____, 2012. The notes will mature on _____, _____. At our option, we may redeem the notes in whole or in part at any time and from time to time before their maturity at the redemption price described herein under "Description of Notes - Optional Redemption."

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

Investing in the notes involves risks. See the section entitled "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010, which is incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

Edgar Filing: MARSH & MCLENNAN COMPANIES, INC. - Form 424B2

| | Per Note | Total |
|---|----------|-------|
| Public offering price ⁽¹⁾ | % | \$ |
| Underwriting discount | % | \$ |
| Proceeds to the Company (before expenses) | % | \$ |

(1) Plus accrued interest, if any, from _____, 2011, if settlement occurs after that date.

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

The underwriters expect to deliver the notes through the book-entry delivery system of The Depository Trust Company for the accounts of its participants, including Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V. and Clearstream Banking, *société anonyme*, on or about _____, 2011.

Joint Book-Running Managers

BofA Merrill Lynch

Citi

Deutsche Bank Securities

Morgan Stanley

Table of Contents

This document consists of two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the terms of this offering of notes. The second part, the accompanying prospectus dated September 8, 2009, gives more general information, some of which may not apply to this offering.

No person is authorized to give any information or to make any representations other than those contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. You must not rely on any unauthorized information or representations. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are an offer to sell only the notes, but only under circumstances and in jurisdictions where it is lawful to do so. The information contained in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus, as well as information previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and incorporated by reference, is current only as of the date of such information. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

References in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus to we, us, our, and the Company are to Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc. and not its subsidiaries, except where the context otherwise requires.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prospectus Supplement

| | Page |
|--|-------------|
| <u>Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference</u> | S-i |
| <u>Summary</u> | S-1 |
| <u>Information Concerning Forward-Looking Statements</u> | S-4 |
| <u>Use of Proceeds</u> | S-6 |
| <u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u> | S-6 |
| <u>Description of Notes</u> | S-7 |
| <u>Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences</u> | S-13 |
| <u>Underwriting</u> | S-16 |
| <u>Legal Matters</u> | S-20 |
| <u>Experts</u> | S-20 |

Prospectus

| | |
|--|----|
| <u>About This Prospectus</u> | 3 |
| <u>Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc.</u> | 3 |
| <u>Use of Proceeds</u> | 3 |
| <u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u> | 3 |
| <u>Description of Capital Stock</u> | 4 |
| <u>Depository Shares Representing Preferred Stock</u> | 7 |
| <u>Description of Debt Securities</u> | 7 |
| <u>Description of Warrants</u> | 15 |
| <u>Description of Purchase Contracts</u> | 15 |
| <u>Description of Units</u> | 15 |
| <u>Plan of Distribution</u> | 16 |
| <u>Where You Can Find More Information</u> | 17 |
| <u>Information Concerning Forward-Looking Statements</u> | 17 |
| <u>Legal Opinions</u> | 19 |
| <u>Experts</u> | 19 |

Table of Contents

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows the Company to incorporate by reference the information it files with the SEC. This permits us to disclose important information to you by referencing these filed documents, which are considered part of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information.

We incorporate by reference the documents set forth below that the Company previously filed with the SEC and any future filings made with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act until the offering of the notes has been completed; provided that, unless otherwise stated, we will not incorporate by reference any filing that is furnished or deemed furnished to the SEC. These documents contain important information about the Company.

SEC Filings

Date Filed with the SEC

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the Year ended December 31, 2010 (including the information specifically incorporated by reference in such Annual Report on Form 10-K from our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed with the SEC on March 31, 2011)

February 28, 2011

Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the Quarter ended March 31, 2011

May 6, 2011

Current Report on Form 8-K dated March 18, 2011

March 24, 2011

Current Report on Form 8-K dated April 20, 2011

April 22, 2011

Current Report on Form 8-K dated May 19, 2011

May 25, 2011

We will provide without charge, upon written or oral request, a copy of any or all of the documents which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Requests should be directed to Investor Relations, Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc., 1166 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10036-2774 (telephone number (212) 345-5000). The information found on our website and the websites of our operating companies is not a part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

The Company

Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc. (the **Company**) is a global professional services firm providing advice and solutions in the areas of risk, strategy and human capital. It is the parent company of a number of the world's leading risk experts and specialty consultants, including: Marsh, the insurance broker, intermediary and risk advisor; Guy Carpenter, the risk and reinsurance specialist; Mercer, the provider of human resources and related financial advice and services; and Oliver Wyman Group, the management and economic consultancy. With approximately 52,000 employees worldwide and 2010 consolidated revenue exceeding \$10 billion, we provide analysis, advice and transactional capabilities to clients in more than 100 countries. Our executive offices are located at 1166 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10036-2774, and our telephone number is (212) 345-5000.

Recent Developments

On June 27, 2011, we commenced tender offers (the **Tender Offers**) to purchase for cash up to a total of \$500,000,000 aggregate principal amount of our outstanding 5.375% notes due 2014 (the **2014 Notes**) and 5.750% notes due 2015 (the **2015 Notes**) and together with the 2014 Notes, the **Outstanding Notes**), of which \$650,000,000 and \$750,000,000, respectively, are currently outstanding. The Tender Offers are scheduled to expire at 11:59 p.m., New York City time, on July 25, 2011, unless extended or earlier terminated.

On July 12, 2011, we announced the early results of the Tender Offers as of 5:00 p.m. on July 11, 2011 (the **Early Tender Date**), and that \$250,000,000 aggregate principal amount of the 2014 Notes and \$250,000,000 aggregate principal amount of the 2015 Notes validly tendered and not withdrawn as of the Early Tender Date will be accepted for payment. No additional 2014 Notes or 2015 Notes will be accepted pursuant to the Tender Offers.

The settlement date for the Outstanding Notes being accepted for payment is expected to be July 15, 2011, subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions, including but not limited to a tender offer funding condition (unless such conditions are waived by us). Nothing in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus shall be construed as an offer or solicitation to purchase the Outstanding Notes, which is taking place by means of a separate offer to purchase. We intend to use the net proceeds of this offering for the repayment, redemption or repurchase of our existing debt, including the purchase of Outstanding Notes in the Tender Offers, and/or other general corporate purposes. See **Use of Proceeds**.

Table of Contents

The Offering

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Issuer | Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc. |
| Notes Offered | \$ aggregate principal amount of % senior notes due . |
| Maturity | The notes will mature on , , unless earlier redeemed or repurchased. |
| Interest | The notes will bear interest at % per year. Interest will be payable semi-annually in arrears on and of each year, beginning , 2012. |
| Ranking | The notes will be senior unsecured obligations of Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc. and will rank equally with all of our other senior unsecured indebtedness from time to time outstanding. As of March 31, 2011, we had \$2.6 billion of outstanding senior indebtedness, not including the debt of our subsidiaries. As of March 31, 2011, debt of our subsidiaries, to which the notes will be structurally subordinated, was approximately \$440 million. |
| Additional Notes | We may, without the consent of the noteholders, issue additional notes having the same ranking and the same interest rate, maturity and other terms as the notes offered by this prospectus supplement. Any such additional notes will be a part of the series having the same terms as the notes. |
| Sinking Fund | None. |
| Optional Redemption | At our option, we may redeem the notes in whole or in part at any time and from time to time before their maturity at the redemption price described herein under Description of Notes Optional Redemption. |
| Use of Proceeds | We will receive net proceeds from the offering of the notes of approximately \$ million after deducting the underwriting discounts and commissions but before offering expenses. We intend to use the net proceeds of this offering for the repayment, redemption or repurchase of our existing debt, including the purchase of Outstanding Notes in the Tender Offers, and/or other general corporate purposes. See Use of Proceeds. |
| Listing | We do not intend to list the notes on any national securities exchange. The notes will be new securities for which there is currently no public market. |

Governing Law

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

S-2

Table of Contents

Trustee

The Bank of New York Mellon.

Risk Factors

Investing in the notes involves risks. See the section entitled "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report to Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010, which is incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, for a discussion of factors you should consider carefully before deciding to invest in the notes.

S-3

Table of Contents

INFORMATION CONCERNING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus contain forward-looking statements, as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements, which express management's current views concerning future events or results, use words like anticipate, assume, believe, continue, estimate, expect, intend, plan, project and similar terms, and future or conditional tense verbs like could, should, will and would. For example, we may use forward-looking statements when addressing topics such as: market and industry conditions, including competitive and pricing trends; changes in our business strategies and methods of generating revenue; the development and performance of our services and products; changes in the composition or level of the Company's revenues; our cost structure and the outcome of cost-saving or restructuring initiatives; the outcome of contingencies; dividend policy; the expected impact of acquisitions and dispositions; pension obligations; cash flow and liquidity; future actions by regulators; and the impact of changes in accounting rules.

Forward-looking statements are subject to inherent risks and uncertainties. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied in our forward-looking statements include, among other things:

our exposure to potential liabilities arising from errors and omissions claims against us, particularly in our Marsh and Mercer businesses;

our ability to make strategic acquisitions and dispositions and to integrate, and realize expected synergies, savings or strategic benefits from the businesses we acquire;

changes in the funded status of our global defined benefit pension plans and the impact of any increased pension funding resulting from those changes;

the impact on our net income caused by fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates;

the impact on our net income or cash flows and our effective tax rate in a particular period caused by settled tax audits and expired statutes of limitation;

the extent to which we retain existing clients and attract new business, and our ability to incentivize and retain key employees;

the potential impact of rating agency actions on our cost of financing and ability to borrow, as well as on our operating costs and competitive position;

our exposure to potential criminal sanctions or civil remedies if we fail to comply with foreign and U.S. laws and regulations that are applicable to our international operations, including import and export requirements, anti-corruption laws such as the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and the pending anti-bribery law in the UK, local laws prohibiting corrupt payments to government officials, as well as various trade sanctions laws;

the impact of competition, including with respect to pricing;

the impact of any regional, national or global political, economic, regulatory or market conditions on our results of operations and financial condition;

our ability to successfully recover should we experience a disaster or other business continuity problem;

changes in applicable tax or accounting requirements; and

potential income statement effects from the application of FASB's ASC Topic No. 740 (Income Taxes) regarding accounting treatment of uncertain tax benefits and valuation allowances and ASC Topic No. 350 (Intangibles Goodwill and Other), including the effect of any subsequent adjustments to the estimates we use in applying these accounting standards.

S-4

Table of Contents

The factors identified above are not exhaustive. Marsh & McLennan Companies and its subsidiaries operate in a dynamic business environment in which new risks may emerge frequently. Accordingly, we caution readers not to place undue reliance on the above forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the dates on which they are made. The Company undertakes no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances arising after the date on which it is made. Further information concerning Marsh & McLennan Companies and its businesses, including information about factors that could materially affect our results of operations and financial condition, is contained in the Company's filings with the SEC, including the "Risk Factors" section of our most recently filed Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We will receive net proceeds from the offering of the notes of approximately \$ _____ million after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions but before offering expenses. We intend to use the net proceeds of this offering for the repayment, redemption or repurchase of our existing debt, including the purchase of Outstanding Notes in the Tender Offers, and/or other general corporate purposes.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the periods indicated:

| For the Three Months Ended Mar. 31, 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | Year Ended December 31, 2008 | 2007 | 2006 |
|---|-------------|-------------|---|-------------|-------------|
| 6.1 | 3.1 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.8 | 2.7 |

S-6

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF NOTES

The notes will be senior debt issued under an indenture to be dated as of _____, 2011 between Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc. and The Bank of New York Mellon, as trustee, as supplemented by a first supplemental indenture to be dated as of _____, 2011 (collectively, the indenture).

General Terms of Notes

Interest and principal will be payable in U.S. dollars. The notes will be issued only in denominations of \$1,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof. There will be no sinking fund payments for the notes.

The security registrar and transfer agent for the notes will be The Bank of New York Mellon until such time as a successor security registrar or transfer agent is appointed.

Interest

The notes will initially be limited to \$ _____ aggregate principal amount. The notes will bear interest at _____ % per year. Interest will be payable semi-annually in arrears on _____ and _____ of each year, beginning _____, 2012. Interest on the notes will accrue from _____, 2011, or from the most recent date to which interest has been paid or provided for. Interest on the notes will be paid to holders of record on the _____ or _____ immediately preceding the interest payment date. Interest on the notes will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months.

If an interest payment date for the notes falls on a day that is not a business day, the interest payment shall be postponed to the next succeeding business day, and no interest on such payment shall accrue for the period from and after such interest payment date. It will be an event of default under the indenture if we fail to pay interest when due and such failure continues for 30 days.

The notes will mature on _____, _____. If the maturity date for the notes falls on a day that is not a business day, the principal and interest shall be due on the next succeeding business day, and no interest on such payment shall accrue for the period from and after the maturity date.

Ranking

The notes will be senior unsecured obligations of Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc. and will rank equally with all of our other senior unsecured indebtedness from time to time outstanding. As of March 31, 2011, we had \$2.6 billion of outstanding senior indebtedness, not including the debt of our subsidiaries. As of March 31, 2011, debt of our subsidiaries, to which the notes will be structurally subordinated, was approximately \$440 million.

Optional Redemption

The notes will be redeemable, in whole at any time or in part from time to time, at our option.

If the notes are redeemed prior to _____, (the date that is three months prior to the stated maturity date for the notes), the redemption price for the notes to be redeemed will equal the greater of the following amounts, plus, in each case, accrued and unpaid interest thereon to but excluding the redemption date:

100% of the principal amount of notes to be redeemed; or

the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest on the notes to be redeemed (exclusive of interest accrued to the date of redemption) discounted to the date of redemption on a semiannual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) at the then current Treasury Rate plus _____ basis points.

Table of Contents

If the notes are redeemed on or after _____, (the date that is three months prior to the stated maturity date for the notes), the redemption price for the notes to be redeemed will equal 100% of the principal amount of such notes plus accrued and unpaid interest thereon to but excluding the redemption date.

Comparable Treasury Issue means the United States Treasury security selected by the Independent Investment Banker as having an actual or interpolated maturity comparable to the remaining term of the notes to be redeemed that would be utilized, at the time of selection and in accordance with customary financial practice, in pricing new issues of corporate debt securities of comparable maturity to the remaining term of such notes.

Comparable Treasury Price means, with respect to any redemption date, (1) the average of the Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations for such redemption date, after excluding the highest and lowest Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, or (2) if the trustee is provided with fewer than four such Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, the average of all such quotations.

Independent Investment Banker means one of the Reference Treasury Dealers appointed by the Company.

Reference Treasury Dealer means (i) Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and its successors, (ii) Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. and its successors, (iii) Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated and its successors and (iv) Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC, or one or more Reference Treasury Dealers as we may specify from time to time; provided, however, that if any of them ceases to be a primary U.S. Government securities dealer for the City of New York (each a Primary Treasury Dealer), we will substitute another Primary Treasury Dealer.

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

Treasury Rate means, with respect to any redemption date, the rate per year equal to the semiannual equivalent yield to maturity or interpolated (on a day count basis) of the Comparable Treasury Issue, calculated using a price for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed as a percentage of its principal amount) equal to the Comparable Treasury Price for such redemption date.

The Treasury Rate shall be calculated on the third business day preceding the redemption date. As used in the immediately preceding sentence and in the definition of Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations above, the term business day means any day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or other day on which commercial banks in New York City are authorized or required by law to remain closed.

Notice of any redemption will be mailed at least 30 but not more than 60 days before the redemption date to each holder of record of the notes to be redeemed at its registered address. The notice of redemption for the notes will state, among other things, the amount of notes to be redeemed, the redemption date, the manner in which the redemption price will be calculated and the place or places where payment will be made upon presentation and surrender of notes to be redeemed. If less than all of the notes are to be redeemed at our option, the trustee will select, in a manner it deems fair and appropriate, the notes, or portions of the notes, to be redeemed. Unless we default in the payment of the redemption price, interest will cease to accrue on any notes that have been called for redemption at the redemption date.

The Company shall not be required (i) to issue, register the transfer of or exchange any notes during the period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of the mailing of a notice of redemption of notes selected for redemption and ending at the close of business on the day of such mailing, or (ii) to register the transfer or exchange of any notes so selected for redemption in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion of any such notes being redeemed in part.

Table of Contents

Global Clearance and Settlement Procedures

Investors in the global securities representing the notes (the Global Notes) may hold a beneficial interest in such Global Notes through The Depository Trust Company (DTC), Clearstream Banking, société anonyme (Clearstream) or the Euroclear System (Euroclear) or through participants. The notes may be traded as home market instruments in both the European and U.S. domestic markets. Initial settlement and all secondary trades will settle as set forth below.

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

Distributions, to the extent received by the U.S. Depository (as defined below) for Clearstream, with respect to the notes held beneficially through Clearstream will be credited to cash accounts of Clearstream Participants in accordance with its rules and procedures.

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

The Euroclear Operator has advised us that it is licensed by the Belgian Banking and Finance Commission to carry out banking activities on a global basis. As a Belgian bank, it is regulated and examined by the Belgian Banking and Finance Commission.

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

Table of Contents

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

Individual certificates in respect of notes will not be issued in exchange for the Global Notes, except in very limited circumstances. If DTC notifies us that it is unwilling or unable to continue as a clearing system in connection with a Global Note or DTC ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act, and in each case we do not appoint a successor clearing system within 90 days after receiving such notice from Euroclear, Clearstream or DTC or on becoming aware that DTC is no longer so registered, we will issue or cause to be issued individual certificates in registered form on registration of transfer of or in exchange for book-entry interests in the notes represented by such Global Note upon delivery of such Global Note for cancellation.

Title to book-entry interests in the notes will pass by book-entry registration of the transfer within the records of Euroclear, Clearstream or DTC, as the case may be, in accordance with their respective procedures. Book-entry interests in the notes may be transferred within Euroclear and within Clearstream and between Euroclear and Clearstream in accordance with procedures established for these purposes by Euroclear and Clearstream. Book-entry interests in the notes may be transferred within DTC in accordance with procedures established for this purpose by DTC. Transfers of book-entry interests in the notes between Euroclear and Clearstream and DTC may be effected in accordance with procedures established for this purpose by Euroclear, Clearstream and DTC.

Initial Settlement

All Global Notes will be registered in the name of Cede & Co. as nominee of DTC. Investors' interests in the Global Notes will be represented through financial institutions acting on their behalf as direct and indirect participants in DTC. As a result, Clearstream and Euroclear will hold positions on behalf of their participants through their respective U.S. depositories (each, a U.S. Depository), which in turn will hold such positions in accounts as participants of DTC.

Notes held through DTC will be settled in immediately available funds. Investor securities custody accounts will be credited with their holdings against payment on the settlement date. Notes held through Clearstream or Euroclear accounts will follow the settlement procedures applicable to conventional eurobonds, except that there will be no temporary global security and no lock-up or restricted period. Notes will be credited to the securities custody accounts on the settlement date against payment.

Secondary Market Trading

Since the purchaser determines the place of delivery, it is important to establish at the time of the trade where both the purchaser's and seller's accounts are located to ensure that settlement can be made on the desired value date.

Trading between DTC Participants. Secondary market trading between DTC participants will be settled in immediately available funds.

Trading between Clearstream and/or Euroclear Participants. Secondary market trading between Clearstream participants and/or Euroclear participants will be settled using the procedures applicable to conventional eurobonds.

Trading between DTC Seller and Clearstream or Euroclear Purchaser. When beneficial interests in the Global Notes are to be transferred from the account of a DTC participant to the account of a Clearstream participant or a Euroclear participant, the purchaser will send instructions to Clearstream or Euroclear through a participant at least one business day prior to settlement. Clearstream or Euroclear will instruct the U.S. Depository, as the case may be, to receive a beneficial interest in the Global Notes against payment. Unless

Table of Contents

otherwise set forth in this prospectus supplement, payment will include interest accrued on the beneficial interest in the Global Notes so transferred from and including the last interest payment date to and excluding the settlement date, on the basis on which interest is calculated on the notes. For transactions settling on the 31st of the month, payment will include interest accrued to and excluding the first day of the following month. Payment will then be made by the U.S. Depository to the DTC participant's account against delivery of the beneficial interest in the Global Notes. After settlement has been completed, the beneficial interest in the Global Notes will be credited to the respective clearing system and by the clearing system, in accordance with its usual procedures, to the Clearstream or Euroclear participant's account. The securities credit will appear the next day (European time) and the cash debit will be back-valued to, and interest on the beneficial interest in the Global Notes will accrue from, the value date (which would be the preceding day when settlement occurred in New York). If settlement is not completed on the intended value date (that is, the trade fails), the Clearstream or Euroclear cash debit will be valued instead as of the actual settlement date.

Clearstream participants and Euroclear participants will need to make available to the respective clearing systems the funds necessary to process same-day funds settlement. The most direct means of doing so is to preposition funds for settlement, either from cash on hand or existing lines of credit, as they would for any settlement occurring within Clearstream or Euroclear. Under this approach, they may take on credit exposure to Clearstream or Euroclear until the beneficial interests in the Global Notes are credited to their accounts one day later.

As an alternative, if Clearstream or Euroclear has extended a line of credit to them, participants can elect not to preposition funds and allow that credit line to be drawn upon to finance settlement. Under this procedure, Clearstream participants or Euroclear participants purchasing a beneficial interest in the Global Notes would incur overdraft charges for one day, assuming they cleared the overdraft when the beneficial interests in the Global Notes were credited to their accounts. However, interest on the beneficial interests in the Global Notes would accrue from the value date. Therefore, in many cases the investment income on the Global Notes earned during that one-day period may substantially reduce or offset the amount of such overdraft charges, although this result will depend on each participant's particular cost of funds.

Since the settlement is taking place during New York business hours, DTC participants can employ their usual procedures for sending a beneficial interest in the Global Notes to the U.S. Depository for the benefit of Clearstream participants or Euroclear participants. The sale proceeds will be available to the DTC seller on the settlement date. Thus, to the DTC participant a cross-market transaction will settle no differently than a trade between two DTC participants.

Trading between Clearstream or Euroclear Seller and DTC Purchaser. Due to time zone differences in their favor, Clearstream and Euroclear participants may employ their customary procedures in transactions in which a beneficial interest in the Global Notes is to be transferred by the respective clearing system, through the U.S. Depository, to a DTC participant. The seller will send instructions to Clearstream or Euroclear through a participant at least one business day prior to settlement. In these cases, Clearstream or Euroclear will instruct the U.S. Depository, as appropriate, to deliver the beneficial interest in the Global Notes to the DTC participant's account against payment. Payment will include interest accrued on the beneficial interest in the Global Notes from and including the last coupon payment date to and excluding the settlement date on the basis on which interest is calculated on the Global Notes. For transactions settling on the 31st of the month, payment will include interest accrued to and excluding the first day of the following month. The payment will then be reflected in the account of the Clearstream or Euroclear participant the following day, and receipt of the cash proceeds in the Clearstream or Euroclear participant's account would be back-valued to the value date (which would be the preceding day, when settlement occurred in New York). Should the Clearstream or Euroclear participant have a line of credit with its respective clearing system and elect to be in debit in anticipation of receipt of the sale proceeds in its account, the back-valuation will extinguish any overdraft charges incurred over that one-day period. If settlement is not completed on the intended value date (that is, the trade fails), receipt of the cash proceeds in the Clearstream or Euroclear participant's account would instead be valued as of the actual settlement date.

Table of Contents

Finally, day traders that use Clearstream or Euroclear and that purchase beneficial interests in the Global Notes from DTC participants for credit to Clearstream participants or Euroclear participants should note that these trades would automatically fail on the sale side unless affirmative action is taken. At least three techniques should be readily available to eliminate this potential problem:

1. borrowing through Clearstream or Euroclear for one day (until the purchase side of the day trade is reflected in their Clearstream or Euroclear accounts) in accordance with the clearing system's customary procedures;
2. borrowing beneficial interests in the Global Notes in the United States from a DTC participant no later than one day prior to settlement, which would give beneficial interests in the Global Notes sufficient time to be reflected in the appropriate Clearstream or Euroclear account in order to settle the sale side of the trade; or
3. staggering the value dates for the buy and sell sides of the trade so that the value date for the purchase from the DTC participant is at least one day prior to the value date for the sale to the Clearstream participant or Euroclear participant.

Although DTC, Clearstream, and Euroclear have agreed to the foregoing procedures in order to facilitate transfers of beneficial interests in the Global Notes among participants of DTC, Clearstream, and Euroclear, they are under no obligation to perform or continue to perform such procedures and such procedures may be discontinued at any time.

Applicable Law

The notes and the indenture will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

Additional Terms

For additional important information about the notes, see "Description of Debt Securities" in the accompanying prospectus. That information includes:

additional information on the terms of the notes;

general information on the indenture and the trustee; and

a description of events of default under the indenture.

To the extent any information about the notes varies between this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, you should rely on the information contained in this prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES

In the opinion of Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, our counsel, the following are the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of ownership and disposition of the notes. This discussion applies only to notes that meet both of the following conditions:

they are purchased by those initial holders who purchase notes at the issue price, which will equal the first price to the public (not including bond houses, brokers or similar persons or organizations acting in the capacity of underwriters, placement agents or wholesalers) at which a substantial amount of the notes is sold for money; and

they are held as capital assets within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code (as defined below).

This discussion does not describe all of the tax consequences that may be relevant to holders in light of their particular circumstances or to holders subject to special rules, such as:

financial institutions;

insurance companies;

dealers using a mark-to-market method of tax accounting for the notes;

persons holding notes as part an integrated transaction;

U.S. Holders (as defined below) whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar;

partnerships or other entities classified as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes;

tax-exempt organizations; or

persons subject to the alternative minimum tax.

If an entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes holds notes, the U.S. federal income tax treatment of a partner will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. Partners of partnerships holding notes are urged to consult their tax advisors as to the particular U.S. federal income tax consequences of holding and disposing of the notes.

This summary is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), administrative pronouncements, judicial decisions and final, temporary and proposed Treasury Regulations in effect as of the date hereof, changes to any of which subsequent to the date of this prospectus supplement may affect the tax consequences described herein, possibly with retroactive effect.

PERSONS CONSIDERING THE PURCHASE OF NOTES ARE URGED TO CONSULT THEIR TAX ADVISORS WITH REGARD TO THE APPLICATION OF THE U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX LAWS TO THEIR PARTICULAR SITUATIONS AS WELL AS ANY TAX CONSEQUENCES ARISING UNDER THE LAWS OF ANY STATE, LOCAL OR FOREIGN TAXING JURISDICTION.

Tax Consequences to U.S. Holders

Edgar Filing: MARSH & MCLENNAN COMPANIES, INC. - Form 424B2

As used herein, the term "U.S. Holder" means a beneficial owner of a note that is, for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

a citizen or resident of the United States;

a corporation, or other entity taxable as a corporation, created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia; or

an estate or trust the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source.

S-13

Table of Contents

The term U.S. Holder also includes certain former citizens and residents of the United States.

Payments of Interest

The notes are expected to be issued without original issue discount (other than *de minimis* original issue discount) for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Accordingly, interest paid on a note will be taxable to a U.S. Holder as ordinary interest income at the time it accrues or is received in accordance with the U.S. Holder's method of accounting for federal income tax purposes. If, however, the notes are issued with original issue discount *i.e.*, the notes' principal amount exceeds their issue price by more than a *de minimis* amount, as determined under applicable Treasury Regulations, a U.S. Holder will be required to include such excess in income, as it accrues, in accordance with a constant yield method based on a compounding of interest before the receipt of cash payments attributable to this income.

Sale, Exchange, Redemption, or Retirement of the Notes

Upon the sale, exchange, redemption or retirement of a note, a U.S. Holder will recognize taxable gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized on the sale, exchange, redemption or retirement and the U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in the note. For these purposes, the amount realized does not include any amount attributable to accrued interest. Amounts attributable to accrued interest are treated as interest as described under "Payments of Interest" above.

Gain or loss realized on the sale, exchange, redemption or retirement of a note will generally be capital gain or loss and will be long-term capital gain or loss if at the time of sale, exchange, redemption or retirement the note has been held for more than one year. The deductibility of capital losses may be subject to limitations.

Backup Withholding and Information Reporting

Information returns generally will be filed with the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") in connection with payments on the notes and the proceeds from a sale or other disposition of the notes. A U.S. Holder will be subject to U.S. backup withholding on these payments if the U.S. Holder fails to provide its taxpayer identification number to the paying agent and comply with certain certification procedures or otherwise establish an exemption from backup withholding. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. The amount of any backup withholding from a payment to a U.S. Holder will be allowed as a credit against the U.S. Holder's U.S. federal income tax liability and may entitle the U.S. Holder to a refund, provided that the required information is furnished to the IRS.

Tax Consequences to Non-U.S. Holders

As used herein, the term "Non-U.S. Holder" means a beneficial owner of a note that is, for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

a nonresident alien individual;

a foreign corporation; or

a foreign estate or trust.

The term "Non-U.S. Holder" does not include a holder who is an individual present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of disposition and who is not otherwise a resident of the United States for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Such a holder is urged to consult his or her own tax advisor regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the sale, exchange or other disposition of a note.

Table of Contents

Payments on the Notes

Subject to the discussion below concerning backup withholding, payments of principal, interest and premium on the notes by the Company or any paying agent to any Non-U.S. Holder will not be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax, provided that, in the case of interest,

the Non-U.S. Holder does not own, actually or constructively, 10 percent or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of the Company entitled to vote and is not a controlled foreign corporation related, directly or indirectly, to the Company through stock ownership; and

the Non-U.S. Holder of the note certifies on a properly executed IRS Form W-8BEN, under penalties of perjury, that it is not a United States person. Special certification rules apply to notes that are held through foreign intermediaries.

Subject to the discussion below concerning income of a Non-U.S. Holder that is effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States, if a Non-U.S. Holder cannot satisfy the requirements described above, payments of interest on the notes to such Non-U.S. Holder will generally be subject to a 30 percent U.S. federal withholding tax, unless the Non-U.S. Holder provides the Company with a properly executed IRS Form W-8BEN claiming an exemption from or reduction in withholding under the benefit of an applicable income tax treaty and complies with any other applicable procedures.

Sale, Exchange, Redemption or Retirement of the Notes

Subject to the discussion below concerning backup withholding, a Non-U.S. Holder of a note will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on gain realized on the sale, exchange, redemption or retirement of such note, unless the gain is effectively connected with the conduct by the Non-U.S. Holder of a trade or business in the United States, subject to an applicable income tax treaty providing otherwise.

Non-U.S. Holder Engaged in a U.S. Trade or Business

If a Non-U.S. Holder of a note is engaged in a trade or business in the United States, and if income or gain on the note is effectively connected with the conduct of this trade or business, the Non-U.S. Holder, although exempt from the withholding tax on interest discussed above, will generally be taxed in the same manner as a U.S. Holder (see *Tax Consequences to U.S. Holders* above), subject to an applicable income tax treaty providing otherwise, except that the Non-U.S. Holder will be required to provide to the Company a properly executed IRS Form W-8ECI in order to claim an exemption from withholding tax on interest. These holders should consult their own tax advisors with respect to other U.S. tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of notes including the possible imposition of a branch profits tax at a rate of 30% (or a lower treaty rate).

Backup Withholding and Information Reporting

Information returns generally will be filed with the IRS in connection with payments on the notes. Copies of the information returns reporting such interest payments and any withholding may also be made available to the tax authorities in the country in which the Non-U.S. Holder resides under the provisions of an applicable income tax treaty. Unless the Non-U.S. Holder complies with certification procedures to establish that it is not a United States person, information returns may be filed with the IRS in connection with the proceeds from a sale or other disposition of the notes, and the Non-U.S. Holder may be subject to U.S. backup withholding on payments on the notes or on the proceeds from a sale or other disposition of the notes. Compliance with the certification procedures required to claim the exemption from withholding tax on interest described above will satisfy the certification requirements necessary to avoid the backup withholding as well. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. The amount of any backup withholding from a payment to a Non-U.S. Holder will be allowed as a credit against the Non-U.S. Holder's U.S. federal income tax liability and may entitle the Non-U.S. Holder to a refund, provided that the required information is furnished to the IRS.

Table of Contents**UNDERWRITING**

Citigroup Global Markets Inc., Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated and Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC are acting as joint book-running managers of the offering and are acting as representatives of the several underwriters named below.

Subject to the terms and conditions contained in the underwriting agreement dated the date of this prospectus supplement, each underwriter named below has severally agreed to purchase, and we have agreed to sell to that underwriter, the principal amount of notes set forth opposite such underwriter's name.

| Underwriter | Principal Amount of Notes |
|---|------------------------------|
| Citigroup Global Markets Inc. | \$ |
| Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. | |
| Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated | |
| Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC | |
| Total | \$ |

The underwriting agreement is subject to a number of terms and conditions and provides that the obligations of the underwriters to pay for and accept delivery of the notes offered hereby are subject to approval of legal matters by counsel and to other conditions. The underwriters are obligated to purchase all the notes offered hereby if they purchase any of the notes.

The underwriters have advised us that they propose initially to offer the notes directly to the public at the public offering price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement and may offer notes to certain dealers at the public offering price less a concession not to exceed % of the principal amount of the notes. The underwriters may allow, and dealers may reallow, a concession not to exceed % of the principal amount of the notes on sales to other dealers. After the initial offering of the notes to the public, the representatives may change the public offering price and concessions.

We estimate that our total expenses for this offering will be approximately \$650,000.

We have agreed to indemnify the several underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or to contribute to payments the underwriters may be required to make because of any of those liabilities.

The notes are a new issue of securities with no established trading market. We do not intend to list the notes on any securities exchange. If a trading market does not develop or is not maintained, holders of notes may find it difficult or impossible to resell their notes. If a trading market were to develop, the notes may trade at prices that are higher or lower than their initial offering price, depending on many factors, including prevailing interest rates, our operating results and financial condition, and the market for similar securities. We have been advised by the underwriters that they intend to make a market in the notes. However, the underwriters are not obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. Accordingly, there can be no assurance regarding any future development of a trading market for the notes or the ability of holders of the notes to sell their notes at all or the price at which such holders may be able to sell their notes.

In connection with the offering, the underwriters may purchase and sell notes in the open market. These transactions may include over-allotment, syndicate covering transactions and stabilizing transactions. Over-allotment involves syndicate sales of notes in excess of the principal amount of notes to be purchased by the underwriters in the offering, which creates a syndicate short position. Syndicate covering transactions involve purchases of the notes in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover syndicate short positions. Stabilizing transactions consist of certain bids or purchases of notes made for the purpose of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the notes while the offering is in progress.

Table of Contents

The underwriters also may impose a penalty bid. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a syndicate member when the underwriters, in covering syndicate short positions or making stabilizing purchases, repurchase notes originally sold by that syndicate member.

Any of these activities may have the effect of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the notes. They may also cause the price of the notes to be higher than the price that otherwise would exist in the open market in the absence of these transactions. The underwriters may conduct these transactions in the over-the-counter market or otherwise. If the underwriters commence any of these transactions, they may discontinue them at any time without notice.

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

Selling Restrictions

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a Relevant Member State), each underwriter has represented and agreed that with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State (the Relevant Implementation Date) it has not made and will not make an offer of notes which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus to the public in that Relevant Member State other than:

- (a) to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive;
- (b) to fewer than 100 or, if the Relevant Member State has implemented the relevant provision of the 2010 PD Amending Directive, 150, natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive), as permitted under the Prospectus Directive, subject to obtaining the prior consent of the representatives for any such offer; or
- (c) in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive, provided that no such offer of notes shall require the Company or any underwriter to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

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

Table of Contents

Each underwriter has represented and agreed that:

- (a) it has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of the FSMA) received by it in connection with the issue or sale of the notes in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the FSMA does not apply to Company; and
- (b) it has complied and will comply with all applicable provisions of the FSMA with respect to anything done by it in relation to the notes in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

The notes may not be offered or sold in Hong Kong by means of any document other than (i) in circumstances which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 32, Laws of Hong Kong), or (ii) to professional investors within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder, or (iii) in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a prospectus within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 32, Laws of Hong Kong) and no advertisement, invitation or document relating to the notes may be issued or may be in the possession of any person for the purpose of issue (in each case whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere), which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public in Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to notes which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to professional investors within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder.

The notes offered in this prospectus supplement have not been registered under the Securities and Exchange Law of Japan. The notes have not been offered or sold and will not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to or for the account of any resident of Japan, except (i) pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of the Securities and Exchange Law and (ii) in compliance with any other applicable requirements of Japanese law.

This prospectus supplement has not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this prospectus supplement and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the notes may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the notes be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the SFA), (ii) to a relevant person pursuant to Section 275(1), or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 275 of the SFA or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA, in each case subject to compliance with conditions set forth in the SFA.

Where the notes are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 of the SFA by a relevant person which is:

a corporation (which is not an accredited investor (as defined in Section 4A of the SFA)) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor; or

a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary of the trust is an individual who is an accredited investor,

Table of Contents

shares, debentures and units of shares and debentures of that corporation or the beneficiaries' rights and interest (howsoever described) in that trust shall not be transferred within six months after that corporation or that trust has acquired the notes pursuant to an offer made under Section 275 of the SFA except

to an institutional investor (for corporations, under Section 274 of the SFA) or to a relevant person defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA, or to any person pursuant to an offer that is made on terms that such shares, debentures and units of shares and debentures of that corporation or such rights and interest in that trust are acquired at a consideration of not less than S\$200,000 (or its equivalent in a foreign currency) for each transaction, whether such amount is to be paid for in cash or by exchange of securities or other assets, and further for corporations, in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 275 of the SFA;

where no consideration is or will be given for the transfer; or

where the transfer is by operation of law.

S-19

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

Certain matters pertaining to the notes will be passed upon for the Company by Peter J. Beshar, Esq., executive vice president and general counsel of the Company. The validity of the notes and certain matters pertaining to the notes will be passed upon for the Company by Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, New York, New York, and for the underwriters by Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP, New York, New York.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc. and subsidiaries (the Company) as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, and for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2010, incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement from the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010, and the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting, have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement. Such financial statements have been so incorporated in reliance upon the reports of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

S-20

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc.

Common Stock, Preferred Stock, Depositary Shares, Debt Securities,

Warrants, Purchase Contracts and Units

We may offer from time to time common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares representing preferred stock, debt securities, warrants, purchase contracts or units. In addition, certain selling securityholders may offer and sell these securities from time to time, in amounts, at prices and on terms that will be determined at the time the securities are offered. We urge you to read this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement, which will describe the specific terms of the securities being offered, carefully before you make your investment decision.

Investing in these securities involves certain risks. See *Risk Factors* beginning on page 14 of our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, which is incorporated by reference herein, as well as in any other recently filed quarterly or current reports. The prospectus supplement applicable to each type or series of securities we offer may contain a discussion of additional risks applicable to an investment in us and the particular type of securities we are offering under that prospectus supplement.

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

This prospectus may not be used to sell securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

The date of this prospectus is September 8, 2009

Table of Contents

You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer of these securities in any state or other jurisdiction where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of this prospectus. The terms MMC, we, us, and our refer to Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc. and its subsidiaries.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page |
|--|-------------|
| <u>About This Prospectus</u> | 3 |
| <u>Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc.</u> | 3 |
| <u>Use of Proceeds</u> | 3 |
| <u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u> | 3 |
| <u>Description of Capital Stock</u> | 4 |
| <u>Depository Shares Representing Preferred Stock</u> | 7 |
| <u>Description of Debt Securities</u> | 7 |
| <u>Description of Warrants</u> | 15 |
| <u>Description of Purchase Contracts</u> | 15 |
| <u>Description of Units</u> | 15 |
| <u>Plan of Distribution</u> | 16 |
| <u>Where You Can Find More Information</u> | 17 |
| <u>Information Concerning Forward-Looking Statements</u> | 17 |
| <u>Legal Opinions</u> | 19 |
| <u>Experts</u> | 19 |

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) utilizing a shelf registration process. Under this shelf process, we may sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we or any selling securityholders sell securities pursuant to the registration statement, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with the additional information described under the heading *Where You Can Find More Information* before deciding to invest in any of the securities being offered.

We have filed or incorporated by reference exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. You should read the exhibits carefully for provisions that may be important to you.

MARSH & MCLENNAN COMPANIES, INC.

MMC is a global professional services firm providing advice and solutions in the areas of risk, strategy, and human capital. MMC's subsidiaries include Marsh, which provides risk and insurance services; Guy Carpenter, which provides reinsurance services; Mercer, which provides human resource and related financial advice and services; the Oliver Wyman Group, which provides management consulting and other services; and Kroll, which provides risk consulting and technology services. With approximately 53,000 employees worldwide, MMC provides analysis, advice and transactional capabilities to clients in over 100 countries.

Our principal offices are located at 1166 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10036, and our telephone number is (212) 345-5000. We maintain a website at <http://www.mmc.com>, where general information about us is available. We are not incorporating the contents of our website into this prospectus.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Except as otherwise disclosed in a prospectus supplement, the net proceeds from the sale of the securities by us will be used for general corporate purposes. In the case of a sale by a selling securityholder, we will not receive any of the proceeds from such sale.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the periods indicated.

| | Year Ended December 31, | | | | Six Months Ended June 30, | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|------|------|------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 2008 ^(a) | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 | 2009 ^(a) | 2008 ^(a) |
| 2.6 | 3.0 | 2.9 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 3.4 | 3.8 |

(a) Earnings for this period excludes the non-cash goodwill impairment charge of \$315 million and \$540 million recorded in the Risk Consulting & Technology segment in 2009 and 2008, respectively.

DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES

This prospectus contains a summary of the securities that MMC may sell. These summaries are not meant to be a complete description of each security. However, this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement contain the material terms of the securities being offered.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

The following description is based upon our restated certificate of incorporation, our by-laws and applicable provisions of law. We have summarized certain portions of the restated certificate of incorporation and by-laws below. The summary is not complete. The restated certificate of incorporation and by-laws are incorporated by reference into this prospectus in their entirety. You should read the restated certificate of incorporation and by-laws for the provisions that are important to you.

MMC's authorized capital stock consists of 1,600,000,000 shares of common stock and 6,000,000 shares of preferred stock. No shares of preferred stock were issued or outstanding as of September 8, 2009.

Common Stock

Voting Rights. Each holder of common stock is entitled to one vote for each share held on all matters to be voted upon by stockholders.

Dividends. The holders of common stock, after any preferences of holders of any preferred stock, are entitled to receive dividends when and if declared by the board of directors out of legally available funds.

Liquidation and Dissolution. If MMC is liquidated or dissolved, the holders of the common stock will be entitled to share in the assets of MMC available for distribution to stockholders in proportion to the amount of common stock they own. The amount available for common stockholders is calculated after payment of liabilities. Holders of any preferred stock will receive their preferential share of the assets of MMC before the holders of the common stock receive any assets.

Other rights. Holders of the common stock have no right to:

convert the stock into any other security;

have the stock redeemed; or

purchase additional stock or to maintain their proportionate ownership interest.

The common stock does not have cumulative voting rights. Holders of shares of the common stock are not required to make additional capital contributions.

Directors' Liability

Our restated certificate of incorporation provides that a member of the board of directors will not be personally liable to MMC or its stockholders for monetary damages for breaches of their legal duties to MMC or its stockholders as a director, except for liability:

for any breach of the director's legal duty to act in the best interests of MMC and its stockholders;

for acts or omissions by the director with dishonest intentions or which involve intentional misconduct or an intentional violation of the law;

for declaring dividends or authorizing the purchase or redemption of shares in violation of Delaware law; or

for transactions where the director derived an improper personal benefit.
Our restated certificate of incorporation also allows us to indemnify directors and officers to the fullest extent authorized by Delaware law.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The Bank of New York Mellon is transfer agent and registrar for the common stock.

Provisions of MMC's Restated Certificate of Incorporation and By-laws and Delaware Law That May Have Anti-Takeover Effects

Board of Directors. On July 17, 2008, our restated certificate of incorporation was amended to eliminate the board of directors' classified structure by the 2011 annual meeting. Directors who have been elected to three-year terms prior to July 17, 2008 will complete those terms. Beginning with the 2009 annual meeting, directors whose previous terms are expiring will be subject to election for a one-year term expiring at the next annual meeting. Thus, beginning with the 2011 annual meeting, the entire board of directors will be elected annually. The number of directors of MMC is fixed from time to time by the board of directors.

Table of Contents

Removal of Directors by Stockholders. MMC's board of directors will not be entirely declassified until the 2011 annual meeting. Delaware law provides that members of a classified board of directors may only be removed for cause by a vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares entitled to vote on the election of the directors.

Stockholder Nomination of Directors. MMC's by-laws provide that a stockholder must notify MMC in writing of any stockholder nomination of a director not earlier than 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on the 120th day and not later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on the 90th day prior to the first anniversary of the preceding year's annual meeting; provided, that if the date of the annual meeting is advanced or delayed by more than 30 days from such anniversary date, notice by the stockholder to be timely must be so delivered not earlier than 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on the 120th day prior to the date of such annual meeting and not later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on the later of (x) the 90th day prior to the date of such annual meeting and (y) the 10th day following the day on which public announcement of the date of such annual meeting is first made by MMC.

No Action By Written Consent. Our restated certificate of incorporation provides that stockholders of MMC may not act by written consent and may only act at duly called meetings of stockholders.

10% Stockholder Provision. Article Eighth of our restated certificate of incorporation changes the voting requirements for stockholders to approve some transactions involving a 10% stockholder. Business combinations are an example of the type of transaction addressed. These transactions must be approved by the holders of a majority of MMC's outstanding voting power, voting together as a single class. Any voting stock owned by a 10% stockholder is not counted in the vote. These transactions, however, can also be approved by a majority of unbiased directors. In that case the voting requirements of Delaware law, our restated certificate of incorporation and our by-laws that otherwise apply would govern the vote. Article Eighth does not affect the voting requirements of holders of preferred stock, if any, which arise under Delaware law and the restated certificate of incorporation.

Transactions covered by Article Eighth include:

mergers of MMC or any of its subsidiaries with a 10% stockholder,

sales of all or any substantial part of the assets of MMC and its subsidiaries to a 10% stockholder,

sales of all or any substantial part of the assets of a 10% stockholder to MMC,

the issuance or delivery of securities of MMC or any of its subsidiaries to a 10% stockholder, or of securities of a 10% stockholder to MMC,

any substantial loan, advance or guarantee, pledge or other financial assistance provided by MMC or any of its subsidiaries to a 10% stockholder,

the adoption of a plan for the voluntary dissolution or liquidation of MMC or amendment to MMC's by-laws,

any reclassification of securities or recapitalization of MMC or other transaction which increases a 10% stockholder's proportionate share of any class of MMC's capital stock, or

any agreement or other arrangement to do any of the foregoing.

A 10% stockholder is described in Article Eighth as an Interested Stockholder. A 10% stockholder is generally considered to be any other corporation, person or entity which:

beneficially owns or controls, directly or indirectly, 10% or more of the voting stock of MMC or has announced a plan or intention to acquire such securities, or

is an affiliate or associate of MMC and at any time within two years prior to the date in question was the beneficial owner of 10% or more of the voting stock of MMC.

The following are not considered to be 10% stockholders:

MMC and any of its subsidiaries, and

any profit-sharing, employee stock ownership or other employee benefit plan of MMC or any subsidiary, or trustees or fiduciaries for these plans.

An unbiased director is described in Article Eighth as a Disinterested Director. An unbiased director is generally considered to be a director who:

is not related to a 10% stockholder, and was a member of the board of directors prior to the time that the relevant 10% stockholder became a 10% stockholder, or

is a successor to an unbiased director, who is not related to a 10% stockholder and was nominated by a majority of unbiased directors.

Table of Contents

A director is considered related to a 10% stockholder if he is an affiliate, associate, representative, agent or employee of the 10% stockholder.

Article Eighth may not be changed or repealed without the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of MMC's outstanding voting power, voting together as a single class. Any voting stock owned by a 10% stockholder will not be counted in the vote. If a majority of unbiased directors recommends a change in Article Eighth, the standard voting requirements of Delaware law, our restated certificate of incorporation and our by-laws that otherwise apply will govern the vote.

Delaware Business Combination Statute. Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, which we refer to as the DGCL, is applicable to MMC. Section 203 of the DGCL restricts some types of transactions and business combinations between a corporation and a 15% stockholder. A 15% stockholder is generally considered by Section 203 to be a person owning 15% or more of the corporation's outstanding voting stock. Section 203 refers to a 15% stockholder as an interested stockholder. Section 203 restricts these transactions for a period of three years from the date the stockholder acquires 15% or more of MMC's outstanding voting stock. With some exceptions, unless the transaction is approved by the board of directors and the holders of at least two-thirds of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation, Section 203 prohibits significant business transactions such as:

a merger with, disposition of significant assets to or receipt of disproportionate financial benefits by the interested stockholder, and

any other transaction that would increase the interested stockholder's proportionate ownership of any class or series of MMC's capital stock.

The shares held by the interested stockholder are not counted as outstanding when calculating the two-thirds of the outstanding voting stock needed for approval.

The prohibition against these transactions does not apply if:

prior to the time that any stockholder became an interested stockholder, the board of directors approved either the business combination or the transaction in which such stockholder acquired 15% or more of MMC's outstanding voting stock, or

the interested stockholder owns at least 85% of the outstanding voting stock of MMC as a result of the transaction in which such stockholder acquired 15% or more of MMC's outstanding voting stock. Shares held by persons who are both directors and officers or by some types of employee stock plans are not counted as outstanding when making this calculation.

Preferred Stock

General. MMC is authorized to issue 6,000,000 shares of preferred stock. No shares of preferred stock are currently issued or outstanding. The board of directors of MMC may, without stockholder approval, issue shares of preferred stock. The board of directors can issue more than one series of preferred stock. The board of directors has the right to fix the number of shares, dividend rights, conversion rights, voting rights, redemption rights, sinking fund provisions, liquidation preferences and any other rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions applicable to the preferred stock it decides to issue.

Voting Rights. The DGCL provides that the holders of preferred stock will have the right to vote separately as a class on any proposal involving fundamental changes in the rights of holders of such preferred stock.

Conversion or Exchange. If we offer preferred stock, the applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms, if any, on which the preferred stock may be convertible into or exchangeable for common stock, debt securities or other preferred stock of MMC. These terms will include provisions as to whether conversion or exchange is mandatory, at the option of the holder or at the option of MMC. These provisions may allow or require the number of shares of common stock or other securities of MMC to be received by the holders of preferred stock to be adjusted.

Table of Contents

DEPOSITARY SHARES REPRESENTING PREFERRED STOCK

The applicable prospectus supplement will include a description of the material terms of any depositary shares representing preferred stock offered hereby.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

The debt securities will be our direct unsecured general obligations. The debt securities will be either senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities. The debt securities will be issued under one or more separate indentures between us and The Bank of New York Mellon, as trustee. Senior debt securities will be issued under a senior indenture to be executed between us and The Bank of New York Mellon, as trustee, which we refer to as the senior indenture. Subordinated debt securities will be issued under a subordinated indenture to be executed between us and The Bank of New York Mellon, as trustee, which we refer to as the subordinated indenture. Together the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture are called the indentures.

We have summarized all of the material provisions of the indentures below. The senior indenture and subordinated indenture have been filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part, and you should read the indentures for provisions that may be important to you. In the summary below, we have included references to section numbers of the indentures so that you can easily locate these provisions.

General

The debt securities will be our direct unsecured general obligations. The senior debt securities will rank equally with all of our other senior and unsubordinated debt. The subordinated debt securities will have a junior position to all of our senior debt.

Because we are a holding company that conducts all of its operations through subsidiaries, holders of the debt securities will have a junior position to claims of creditors of our subsidiaries, including trade creditors, debtholders, secured creditors, taxing authorities, guarantee holders and any preferred stockholders.

The provisions of each indenture allow us to reopen a previous issue of a series of debt securities and issue additional debt securities of that series.

A prospectus supplement relating to any series of debt securities being offered will include specific terms relating to the offering. The terms will be established in an officers' certificate or a supplemental indenture. The officers' certificate or supplemental indenture will be signed at the time of issuance and will contain important information. The officers' certificate or supplemental indenture will be filed as an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K of MMC, which will be publicly available. The officers' certificate or supplemental indenture will include some or all of the following terms for a particular series of debt securities:

the title of the securities;

any limit on the amount that may be issued;

whether or not the debt securities will be issued in global form and who the depositary will be;

the maturity date(s);

the interest rate or the method of computing the interest rate;

Edgar Filing: MARSH & MCLENNAN COMPANIES, INC. - Form 424B2

the date or dates from which interest will accrue, or how such date or dates will be determined, and the interest payment date or dates and any related record dates;

the place(s) where payments will be made;

MMC's right, if any, to defer payment of interest and the maximum length of any deferral period;

the terms and conditions on which the debt securities may be redeemed at the option of MMC;

the date(s), if any, on which, and the price(s) at which MMC is obligated to redeem, or at the holder's option to purchase, such series of debt securities and other related terms and provisions;

any provisions granting special rights to holders when a specified event occurs;

any changes to or additional events of default or covenants;

any special tax implications of the debt securities;

the denominations in which the debt securities will be issued, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and whole multiples of \$1,000;

the subordination terms of any subordinated debt securities; and

any other terms that are not inconsistent with the indenture. (section 2.01)

Table of Contents

Fixed Rate Debt Securities

Each fixed rate debt security will mature on the date specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Each fixed rate debt security will bear interest from the date of issuance at the annual rate stated on its face until the principal is paid or made available for payment. Interest on fixed rate debt securities will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months. Interest on fixed rate debt securities will accrue from and including the most recent interest payment date in respect of which interest has been paid or duly provided for, or, if no interest has been paid or duly provided for, from and including the issue date or any other date specified in a prospectus supplement on which interest begins to accrue. Interest will accrue to but excluding the next interest payment date, or, if earlier, the date of maturity or earlier redemption or repayment, as the case may be.

Payments of interest on fixed rate debt securities will be made on the interest payment dates specified in the applicable prospectus supplement. However, if the first interest payment date is less than 15 days after the date of issuance, interest will not be paid on the first interest payment date, but will be paid on the second interest payment date.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, if any scheduled interest payment date, maturity date or date of redemption or repayment is not a business day, then we may pay the applicable interest, principal and premium, if any, on the next succeeding business day, and no additional interest will accrue during the period from and after the scheduled interest payment date, maturity date or date of redemption or repayment. (section 13.07)

A fixed rate debt security may pay a level amount in respect of both interest and principal amortized over the life of the debt security. Payments of principal and interest on amortizing debt securities will be made on the interest payment dates specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, and at maturity or upon any earlier redemption or repayment. Payments on amortizing debt securities will be applied first to interest due and payable and then to the reduction of the unpaid principal amount. We will provide to the original purchaser, and will furnish to subsequent holders upon request to us, a table setting forth repayment information for each amortizing debt security.

Floating Rate Debt Securities

Each floating rate debt security will mature on the date specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, each floating rate debt security will bear interest at LIBOR plus a margin to be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement. A floating rate debt security may also have either or both of the following limitations on the interest rate:

a maximum limitation, or ceiling, on the rate of interest which may accrue during any interest period, which we refer to as the maximum interest rate ; and/or

a minimum limitation, or floor, on the rate of interest that may accrue during any interest period, which we refer to as the minimum interest rate.

Any applicable maximum interest rate or minimum interest rate will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Interest on floating rate debt securities will accrue from and including the most recent interest payment date to which interest has been paid or duly provided for, or, if no interest has been paid or duly provided for, from and including the issue date or any other date specified in a prospectus supplement on which interest begins to accrue. Interest will accrue to but excluding the next interest payment date, or, if earlier, the date on which the principal has been paid or duly made available for payment, except as described below.

The interest rate in effect from the date of issue to the first interest reset date for a floating rate debt security will be the initial interest rate specified in the applicable prospectus supplement. We refer to this rate as the initial interest rate. The interest rate on each floating rate debt security may be reset daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, semiannually or annually. This period is the interest reset period and the first day of each interest reset period is the interest reset date. The interest determination date for any interest reset date is the day the calculation agent will refer to when determining the new interest rate at which a floating rate will reset.

Table of Contents

LIBOR for each interest reset date, other than for the initial interest rate, will be determined by the calculation agent as follows:

- (i) LIBOR will be the offered rate for deposits in U.S. dollars for the three month period which appears on Telerate Page 3750 at approximately 11:00 a.m., London time, two London banking days prior to the applicable interest reset date.
- (ii) If this rate does not appear on the Telerate Page 3750, the calculation agent will determine the rate on the basis of the rates at which deposits in U.S. dollars are offered by four major banks in the London interbank market (selected by the calculation agent after consulting with us) at approximately 11:00 a.m., London time, two London banking days prior to the applicable interest reset date to prime banks in the London interbank market for a period of three months commencing on that interest reset date and in principal amount equal to an amount not less than \$1,000,000 that is representative for a single transaction in such market at such time. In such case, the calculation agent will request the principal London office of each of the aforesaid major banks to provide a quotation of such rate. If at least two such quotations are provided, LIBOR for that interest reset date will be the average of the quotations. If fewer than two quotations are provided as requested, LIBOR for that interest reset date will be the average of the rates quoted by three major banks in New York, New York (selected by the calculation agent after consulting with us) at approximately 11:00 a.m., New York time, two London banking days prior to the applicable interest reset date for loans in U.S. dollars to leading banks for a period of three months commencing on that interest reset date and in a principal amount equal to an amount not less than \$1,000,000 that is representative for a single transaction in such market at such time; provided that if fewer than three quotations are provided as requested, for the period until the next interest reset date, LIBOR will be the same as the rate determined on the immediately preceding interest reset date.

The interest reset dates will be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement. If an interest reset date for any floating rate debt security falls on a day that is not a business day, it will be postponed to the following business day, except that, if that business day is in the next calendar month, the interest reset date will be the immediately preceding business day.

A London banking day is any day in which dealings in U.S. dollar deposits are transacted in the London interbank market. Telerate Page 3750 means the display page so designated on the Telerate Service for the purpose of displaying London interbank offered rates of major banks (or any successor page).

The applicable prospectus supplement will specify a calculation agent for any issue of floating rate debt securities. The calculation agent will, upon the request of the holder of any floating rate debt security, provide the interest rate then in effect. All calculations made by the calculation agent in the absence of willful misconduct, bad faith or manifest error shall be conclusive for all purposes and binding on us and the holders of the floating rate debt securities. We may appoint a successor calculation agent at any time at our discretion and without notice.

All percentages resulting from any calculation of the interest rate with respect to the floating rate debt securities will be rounded, if necessary, to the nearest one-hundred thousandth of a percentage point, with five one-millionths of a percentage point rounded upward (e.g., 9.876545% (or .09876545) would be rounded to 9.87655% (or .0987655) and 9.876544% (or .09876544) would be rounded to 9.87654% (or .0987654)), and all dollar amounts in or resulting from any such calculation will be rounded to the nearest cent (with one-half cent being rounded upward).

Interest on the floating rate debt securities will be computed and paid on the basis of a 360-day year and the actual number of days in each interest payment period. The interest rate on the floating rate debt securities will in no event be higher than the maximum rate permitted by New York law, as the same may be modified by United States law of general application.

We will pay interest on floating rate debt securities on the interest payment dates specified in the applicable prospectus supplement. However, if the first interest payment date is less than 15 days after the date of issuance, interest will not be paid on the first interest payment date, but will be paid on the second interest payment date. If any scheduled interest payment date, other than the maturity date or any earlier redemption or repayment date, for any floating rate debt security falls on a day that is not a business day, it will be postponed to the following business day, except that if that business day would fall in the next calendar month, the interest payment date will be the immediately preceding business day. If the scheduled maturity date or any earlier redemption or repayment date of a floating rate debt security falls on a day that is not a business day, the payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest, if any, will be made on the next succeeding business day, but interest on that payment will not accrue during the period from and after the maturity, redemption or repayment date.

Table of Contents

Conversion or Exchange Rights

The prospectus supplement will describe the terms, if any, on which a series of debt securities may be convertible into or exchangeable for our common stock, preferred stock, debt securities or other securities, or securities of third parties. These terms will include provisions as to whether conversion or exchange is mandatory, at the option of the holder or at the option of MMC. These provisions may allow or require adjustment of the number of shares of common stock or other securities of MMC to be received by the holders of such series of debt securities. (section 2.01)

Optional Redemption

Unless the prospectus supplement relating to any series of debt securities provides otherwise with respect to such series, each series of debt securities will be redeemable in whole at any time or in part from time to time, at our option, at a redemption price equal to the greater of:

100% of the principal amount of the series of debt securities to be redeemed; or

the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest on the series of debt securities to be redeemed (exclusive of interest accrued to the date of redemption) discounted to the date of redemption on a semiannual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) at the then current Treasury Rate plus a spread as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

In each case we will pay accrued and unpaid interest on the principal amount to be redeemed to the date of redemption.

Comparable Treasury Issue means the United States Treasury security selected by the Independent Investment Banker as having a maturity comparable to the remaining term (Remaining Life) of the series of debt securities to be redeemed that would be utilized, at the time of selection and in accordance with customary financial practice, in pricing new issues of corporate debt securities of comparable maturity to the remaining term of such series of debt securities.

Comparable Treasury Price means, with respect to any redemption date, (1) the average of the Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations for such redemption date, after excluding the highest and lowest Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, or (2) if the trustee obtains fewer than four such Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, the average of all such quotations.

Independent Investment Banker means the investment banking institution or institutions specified in the applicable prospectus supplement and their respective successors, or, if such firms or the successors, if any, to such firm or firms, as the case may be, are unwilling or unable to select the Comparable Treasury Issue, an independent investment banking institution of national standing appointed by us.

Reference Treasury Dealer means the investment banking institutions specified as such in the applicable prospectus supplement; provided, however, that if any of them ceases to be a primary U.S. Government securities dealers (each a Primary Treasury Dealer), we will substitute another Primary Treasury Dealer.

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

Treasury Rate means, with respect to any redemption date, the rate per year equal to:

- (i) the yield, under the heading which represents the average for the immediately preceding week, appearing in the most recently published statistical release designated H.15(519) or any successor publication which is published weekly by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and which establishes yields on actively traded United States Treasury securities adjusted to constant maturity under the caption Treasury Constant Maturities, for the maturity corresponding to the Comparable Treasury Issue; provided that, if no maturity is within three months before or after the remaining life of the series of debt securities to be redeemed, yields for the two published maturities most closely corresponding to the Comparable Treasury Issue shall be determined and the Treasury

Rate shall be interpolated or extrapolated from those yields on a straight line basis, rounding to the nearest month; or

Table of Contents

- (ii) if such release (or any successor release) is not published during the week preceding the calculation date or does not contain such yields, the rate per year equal to the semiannual equivalent yield to maturity of the Comparable Treasury Issue, calculated using a price for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed as a percentage of its principal amount) equal to the Comparable Treasury Price for such redemption date.

The Treasury Rate will be calculated on the third business day preceding the redemption date. As used in the immediately preceding sentence and in the definition of Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations above, the term business day means any day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or other day on which commercial banks in New York City are authorized or required by law to remain closed.

Notice of any redemption will be mailed at least 30 but not more than 60 days before the redemption date to each holder of record of the series of debt securities to be redeemed at its registered address. The notice of redemption will state, among other things, the amount of the series of debt securities to be redeemed, the redemption date, the manner in which the redemption price will be calculated and the place or places that payment will be made upon presentation and surrender of the series of debt securities to be redeemed. If less than all of a series of debt securities are to be redeemed at our option, the trustee will select, in a manner it deems fair and appropriate, the debt securities of that series, or portions of the debt securities of that series, to be redeemed. Unless we default in the payment of the redemption price with respect to any debt securities called for redemption, interest will cease to accrue on such debt securities at the redemption date. (sections 3.02 and 3.03)

The Company will not be required (i) to issue, register the transfer of or exchange any series of debt securities during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of mailing of a notice of redemption and ending at the close of business on the day of such mailing, or (ii) to register the transfer of or exchange any debt securities of any series so selected for redemption in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion of any such series of debt securities being redeemed in part. (section 2.05)

Covenants

Under the indentures, MMC agrees to pay the interest, principal and any premium on the debt securities when due (section 4.01), and to maintain a place of payment (section 4.02). In addition, we must comply with the covenants described below:

Limitation on Liens on Stock of our Significant Subsidiaries. The indentures prohibit us and our subsidiaries from directly or indirectly creating, assuming, incurring or permitting to exist any Indebtedness secured by any lien on the voting stock or voting equity interest of Marsh Inc. or Mercer Inc. (each a Significant Subsidiary) unless the debt securities then outstanding (and, if we so elect, any other Indebtedness of MMC that is not subordinate to such debt securities and with respect to which we are obligated to provide such security) are secured equally and ratably with such Indebtedness for so long as such Indebtedness is so secured. Indebtedness is defined as the principal of and any premium and interest due on indebtedness of a person (as defined in the indentures), whether outstanding on the original date of issuance of a series of debt securities or thereafter created, incurred or assumed, which is (a) indebtedness for money borrowed and (b) any amendments, renewals, extensions, modifications and refundings of any such indebtedness. For the purposes of this definition, indebtedness for money borrowed means (1) any obligation of, or any obligation guaranteed by, such person for the repayment of borrowed money, whether or not evidenced by bonds, debentures, notes or other written instruments, (2) any obligation of, or any obligation guaranteed by, such person evidenced by bonds, debentures, notes or similar written instruments, including obligations assumed or incurred in connection with the acquisition of property, assets or businesses (provided, however, that the deferred purchase price of any business or property or assets shall not be considered Indebtedness if the purchase price thereof is payable in full within 90 days from the date on which such indebtedness was created), and (3) any obligations of such person as lessee under leases required to be capitalized on the balance sheet of the lessee under generally accepted accounting principles and leases of property or assets made as part of any sale and lease-back transaction to which such person is a party. For purposes of this covenant only, Indebtedness also includes any obligation of, or any obligation guaranteed by, any person for the payment of amounts due under a swap agreement or similar instrument or agreement, or under a foreign currency hedge or similar instrument or agreement. If we are required to secure outstanding debt securities equally and ratably with other Indebtedness under this covenant, we will be required to document our compliance with the covenant and thereafter the trustee will be authorized to enter into a supplemental agreement or indenture and to take such action as it may deem advisable to enable it to enforce the rights of the holders of the outstanding debt securities so secured. (section 4.06)

Table of Contents

Provision of Compliance Certificate. We are required under the indentures to deliver to the trustee within 120 days after the end of each fiscal year an officer's certificate certifying as to our compliance with all conditions and covenants under the relevant indenture, or if we are not in compliance, identifying and describing the nature and status of such non-compliance. (section 4.08)

Consolidation, Merger or Sale

The indentures do not restrict the ability of MMC to merge or consolidate, or sell, convey, transfer or lease all or substantially all of its assets as long as certain conditions are met. We may only merge or consolidate with, or convey, transfer or lease all of our assets to, any person, if doing so will not result in an event of default. Any such successor, acquirer or lessor of such assets must expressly assume all of the obligations of MMC under the indentures and the debt securities and will succeed to every right and power of MMC under the indentures. Thereafter, except in the case of a lease, the predecessor or transferor of such assets will be relieved of all obligations and covenants under the relevant indenture and debt securities. (sections 10.01 and 10.02)

Events of Default Under the Indentures

The following are events of default under the indentures with respect to any series of debt securities issued:

we fail to pay interest when due and such failure continues for 90 days, unless the time for payment has been properly extended or deferred in accordance with the terms of the particular series;

we fail to pay the principal or any premium when due, unless the maturity has been properly extended in accordance with the terms of the particular series;

we fail to observe or perform any other covenant or agreement contained in the debt securities or the indentures, other than a covenant or agreement specifically relating to another series of debt securities, and such failure continues for 90 days after we receive a notice of default from the trustee or from the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all of the affected series;

certain events of bankruptcy or insolvency, whether voluntary or not; and

any additional events of default that may be established with respect to a particular series of debt securities under the indentures, as may be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement. (section 6.01)

If, with regard to any series, an event of default resulting from a failure to pay principal, any premium or interest occurs and is continuing, the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series may declare the principal of all debt securities of that series immediately due and payable. (section 6.01)

If an event of default other than a failure to pay principal, any premium or interest occurs and is continuing, the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all affected series (all such series voting together as a single class) may declare the principal of all debt securities of such affected series immediately due and payable. (section 6.01)

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all affected series (voting together as a single class) may waive any past default with respect to such series and its consequences, except a default or events of default regarding payment of principal, any premium or interest, in which case the holders of the outstanding debt securities of each affected series shall vote to waive such default or event of default as a separate class. Such a waiver will eliminate the default. (section 6.06)

Unless otherwise specified in the indentures, if an event of default occurs and is continuing, the trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the relevant indenture unless the holders of the debt securities have offered the trustee reasonable indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities that it might incur. The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of

Edgar Filing: MARSH & MCLENNAN COMPANIES, INC. - Form 424B2

all series affected by an event of default, voting together as a single class, or, in the event of a default in the payment of principal, any premium or interest, the holders of a majority of the principal amount outstanding of each affected series voting as a separate class, will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee with respect to the debt securities of such series, provided that:

such direction is not in conflict with any law or the applicable indenture or unduly prejudicial to the rights of holders of any other series of debt securities outstanding under the applicable indenture; and

Table of Contents

unless otherwise provided under the Trust Indenture Act, the trustee need not take any action that might involve it in personal liability. (section 6.06)

A holder of the debt securities of a particular series will only have the right to institute a proceeding under the indentures or to appoint a receiver or trustee, or to seek other remedies, in each case with respect to such series of debt securities, if:

the holder has given written notice to the trustee of a continuing event of default;

in the case of an event of default relating to the payment of principal, any premium or interest, the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the particular series have made written request to the trustee to institute proceedings as trustee;

in the case of an event of default not relating to payment of principal, any premium or interest, the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all series affected by such event of default (voting together as a single class) have made written request to the trustee to institute proceedings as trustee;

such holders have offered reasonable indemnity to the trustee to cover the cost of the proceedings; and

the trustee does not institute a proceeding, and does not receive conflicting directions from a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of (i) the particular series, in the case of an event of default relating to the payment of principal, any premium or interest or (ii) all affected series, in the case of an event of default not relating to the payment of principal, any premium or interest, in each case, within 60 days of receiving the written notice of an event of default. (section 6.04)

Modification of Indenture; Waiver

Without the consent of any holders of debt securities, MMC and the trustee may change an indenture:

to fix any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency in the indenture;

to effect the assumption of a successor corporation of our obligations under such indenture and the outstanding debt securities;

to add to our covenants for the benefit of the holders of all or any series of debt securities under such indenture or surrender any right or power we have under such indenture;

to change anything that does not materially adversely affect the interests of any holder of debt securities of any series; and

to effect certain other limited purposes described in the indenture. (section 9.01)

The rights of holders of a series of debt securities may be changed by MMC and the trustee with the written consent of the holders of a majority of the principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all series then outstanding under the relevant indenture (all such series voting together as a single class). However, the following changes may only be made with the consent of each holder of debt securities of each series affected by the change:

extending the fixed maturity;

reducing the principal amount;

reducing the rate of or extending the time of payment of interest;

reducing any premium payable upon redemption;

reducing the percentage of debt securities referred to above, the holders of which are required to consent to any amendment; or

in respect of the subordinated indenture, making any change to the subordination terms of any debt security that would adversely affect the holders of the debt securities of that series. (section 9.02)

Table of Contents

Form, Exchange, and Transfer

The debt securities of each series will be issued only in fully registered form without coupons in denominations of \$1,000 and whole multiples of \$1,000. The indentures provide that debt securities of a series may be issued in temporary or permanent global form and may be issued as book-entry securities that will be deposited with The Depository Trust Company or another depository named by MMC and identified in a prospectus supplement with respect to such series. (sections 2.03, 2.06 and 2.11)

A holder of debt securities of any series can exchange such debt securities for other debt securities of the same series, in any authorized denomination and with the same terms and aggregate principal amount. A holder may present debt securities for exchange or for registration of transfer at the office of the security registrar or at the office of any transfer agent designated by MMC for such purpose. Unless otherwise provided in the debt securities to be transferred or exchanged, no service charge will be made for any registration of transfer or exchange, but MMC may require payment of any related taxes or other governmental charges. The prospectus supplement will name the security registrar and any transfer agent initially designated for any series of debt securities. MMC may at any time change the transfer agent by written notice delivered to the trustee. (section 2.05)

If the debt securities of any series are to be redeemed, MMC will not be required to:

issue, register the transfer of, or exchange any debt securities of that series during a period beginning 15 days before the day of mailing of a notice of redemption and ending at the close of business on the day of mailing; or

register the transfer of or exchange any debt securities of a series, or a portion of a series, that has been called for redemption. (sections 2.05 and 4.02)

Rights and Duties of the Trustee

The trustee, except when there is an event of default, will perform only those duties as are specifically stated in the indentures. If an event of default has occurred with respect to any series of debt securities, the trustee must exercise with respect to such debt securities the rights and powers it has under the indenture and use the same degree of care and skill as a prudent person would exercise or use in the conduct of his or her own affairs. Except as provided in the preceding sentence, the trustee is not required to exercise any of the powers given it by the indentures at the request of any holder of debt securities unless it is offered reasonable security or indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities that it might incur. The trustee is not required to spend or risk its own money or otherwise become financially liable while performing its duties or exercising its rights or powers unless it reasonably believes that it will be repaid or receive adequate indemnity. The trustee will not be deemed to have any notice of any default or event of default unless a responsible officer of the trustee has actual knowledge of or receives written notice of the default which specifies the affected securities and the relevant indenture. Furthermore, the rights and protections of the trustee, including its right of indemnification under the indentures, extend to the trustee's officers, directors, agents and employees, and will survive the trustee's resignation and removal. (sections 7.01 and 7.02)

Payment and Paying Agents

We will pay interest on any debt securities to the person in whose name the debt securities are registered on the regular record date for the applicable interest payment date. (sections 2.03 and 3.03)

We will pay principal, any premium and interest on the debt securities of a particular series at the office of one or more paying agents that we designate for that series. Unless otherwise stated in the applicable supplemental indenture and prospectus supplement, we will initially designate the corporate trust office of the trustee in the City of New York as our sole paying agent. We will be required to maintain a paying agent in each place of payment for the debt securities. (sections 4.01, 4.02 and 4.03)

All money we pay to a paying agent or the trustee for the payment of principal, any premium or interest on any debt security which remains unclaimed for a period of two years after the principal, premium or interest has become due and payable will, upon our request, be repaid to us, and the holder of the debt security may then look only to us for payment of those amounts. (section 11.05)

Governing Law

The indentures and the debt securities will be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of New York. (section 13.05)

Table of Contents

Subordination of Subordinated Debt Securities

The subordinated debt securities will be unsecured and will be subordinate and junior in priority of payment to our other indebtedness on the terms described in the prospectus supplement relating to such securities. The subordinated indenture does not limit the amount of subordinated debt securities which we may issue, nor does it limit our ability to issue any other secured or unsecured debt. (sections 6.03 and 14.01)

The prospectus supplement relating to any series of subordinated debt securities will disclose the amount of debt of MMC that will be senior to those subordinated debt securities.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

The applicable prospectus supplement will include a description of the material terms of any warrants offered hereby.

DESCRIPTION OF PURCHASE CONTRACTS

The applicable prospectus supplement will include a description of the material terms of any purchase contracts offered hereby.

DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

The applicable prospectus supplement will include a description of the material terms of any units offered hereby.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

MMC and/or the selling securityholders, if applicable, may sell the securities in one or more of the following ways (or in any combination) from time to time:

through underwriters or dealers;

directly to a limited number of purchasers or to a single purchaser; or

through agents.

The applicable prospectus supplement will state the terms of the offering of the securities, including:

the name or names of any underwriters, dealers or agents;

the purchase price of such securities and the proceeds to be received by MMC, if any;

any initial public offering price;

any underwriting discounts or agency fees and other items constituting underwriters or agents compensation;

any discounts or concessions allowed or reallowed or paid to dealers; and

any securities exchanges on which the securities may be listed.

Any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallowed or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time.

If we and/or the selling securityholders, if applicable, use underwriters in the sale, the securities will be acquired by the underwriters for their own account and may be resold from time to time in one or more transactions, including:

negotiated transactions;

at a fixed public offering price or prices, which may be changed;

at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;

at prices related to prevailing market prices; or

at negotiated prices.

Unless otherwise stated in a prospectus supplement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase any securities will be conditioned on customary closing conditions and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all securities of a series, if any are purchased.

We and/or the selling securityholders, if applicable, may sell the securities through agents from time to time. The prospectus supplement will name any agent involved in the offer or sale of the securities and any commissions we pay to them. Generally, any agent will be acting on a best efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

We and/or the selling securityholders, if applicable, may authorize underwriters, dealers or agents to solicit offers by certain purchasers to purchase the securities from MMC and/or the selling securityholders, if applicable, at the public offering price set forth in the prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. The contracts will be subject only to those conditions set forth in the prospectus supplement, and the prospectus supplement will set forth any commissions paid for solicitation of these contracts.

Underwriters and agents may be entitled under agreements entered into with MMC and/or the selling securityholders, if applicable, to indemnification by MMC and/or the selling securityholders, if applicable, against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribution with respect to payments which the underwriters or agents may be required to make. Underwriters and agents may be customers of, engage in transactions with, or perform services for MMC and its affiliates in the ordinary course of business.

Each series of securities will be a new issue of securities and will have no established trading market other than the common stock which is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, the Chicago Stock Exchange, NYSE Arca and the London Stock Exchange. Any underwriters to whom securities are sold for public offering and sale may make a market in the securities, but such underwriters will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. The securities, other than the common stock, may or may not be listed on a national securities exchange.

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document that we file at the Public Reference Room of the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. In addition, the SEC maintains an Internet site at <http://www.sec.gov>, from which interested persons can electronically access our SEC filings, including the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part and the exhibits and schedules thereto.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference in this prospectus certain documents we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference into this prospectus the documents listed below, which are all filings we have made pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15 (d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), as of the date of the filing of the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part:

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008;

Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2009 and June 30, 2009;

Current Report on Form 8-K filed on March 23, 2009;

Current Report on Form 8-K filed on April 9, 2009; and

Current Report on Form 8-K filed on August 28, 2009.

With respect to each offering of securities under this prospectus, we also incorporate by reference all documents subsequently filed with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Exchange Act prior to the termination of that offering under this prospectus.

MMC will provide without charge, upon written or oral request, a copy of any or all of the documents which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus, other than exhibits which are specifically incorporated by reference into those documents. Requests should be directed to Investor Relations, Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc., 1166 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10036-2774 (telephone number (212) 345-5000).

INFORMATION CONCERNING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus contain forward-looking statements, as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements, which express management's current views concerning future events or results, use words like anticipate, assume, believe, continue, estimate, expect, intend, plan, project and similar terms, and future or conditional words like could, may, might, should, will and would. For example, we may use forward-looking statements when addressing topics such as: market and industry conditions, including competitive and pricing trends; changes in our business strategies and methods of generating revenue; the development and performance of our services and products; changes in the composition or level of MMC's revenues; our cost structure and the outcome of cost-saving or restructuring initiatives; the outcome of contingencies; dividend policy; the expected impact of acquisitions and dispositions; pension obligations; cash flow and liquidity; future actions by regulators; and the impact of changes in accounting rules.

Forward-looking statements are subject to inherent risks and uncertainties. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied in our forward-looking statements include:

Edgar Filing: MARSH & MCLENNAN COMPANIES, INC. - Form 424B2

the potential impact of an adverse ruling in, or the settlement of, the purported securities class action against MMC, Marsh and certain of their former officers concerning the late 2004 decline in MMC's share price and the purported ERISA class action pending against MMC and various current and former employees, officers and directors on behalf of participants and beneficiaries of an MMC retirement plan, both of which are scheduled for trial in early 2010;

our exposure to potential liabilities arising from errors and omissions claims against us, including claims of professional negligence in providing actuarial services, such as those alleged by the Alaska Retirement Management Board in a pending lawsuit against Mercer that is scheduled for trial in the spring of 2010;

Table of Contents

the impact of current financial market conditions on our results of operations and financial condition;

the potential impact of legislative, regulatory, accounting and other initiatives which may be taken in response to the current financial crisis;

our ability to meet our financing needs by generating cash from operations and accessing external financing sources, including the impact of current economic conditions on our cost of financing or ability to borrow;

the potential impact of rating agency actions on our cost of financing and ability to borrow, as well as on our operating costs and competitive position;

the impact on our net income caused by fluctuations in foreign exchange rates;

changes in the funded status of our global defined benefit pension plans and the impact of any increased pension funding resulting from those changes;

the impact on risk and insurance services commission revenues of changes in the availability of, and the premiums insurance carriers charge for, insurance and reinsurance products, including the impact on premium rates and market capacity attributable to catastrophic events;

the extent to which we retain existing clients and attract new business, and our ability to incentivize and retain key employees;

the challenges we face in achieving profitable revenue growth and improving operating margins at Marsh;

the impact on our consulting segment of pricing trends, utilization rates, the general economic environment and legislative changes affecting client demand;

the impact of competition, including with respect to pricing, the emergence of new competitors, and the fact that many of Marsh's competitors are not constrained in their ability to receive contingent commissions;

our ability to successfully obtain payment from our clients of the amounts they owe us for work performed;

the impact of, and potential challenges in complying with, legislation and regulation in the jurisdictions in which we operate, particularly given the global scope of our businesses and the possibility of conflicting regulatory requirements across the jurisdictions in which we do business;

our exposure to potential criminal sanctions or civil remedies if we fail to comply with foreign and U.S. laws and regulations that are applicable to our international operations, including import and export requirements, U.S. laws such as the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, and local laws prohibiting corrupt payments to government officials;

our ability to make strategic acquisitions and dispositions and to integrate, and realize expected synergies, savings or strategic benefits from, the businesses we acquire;

our ability to successfully recover should we experience a disaster or other business continuity problem;

changes in applicable tax or accounting requirements; and

potential income statement effects from the application of FIN 48 (Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes) and SFAS 142 (Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets), including the effect of any subsequent adjustments to the estimates MMC uses in applying these accounting standards.

The factors identified above are not exhaustive. MMC and its subsidiaries operate in a dynamic business environment in which new risks may emerge frequently. Accordingly, MMC cautions readers not to place undue reliance on its forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the dates on which they are made. MMC undertakes no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking

Table of Contents

statement to reflect events or circumstances arising after the date on which it is made. Further information concerning MMC and its businesses, including information about factors that could materially affect our results of operations and financial condition, is contained in MMC's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the Risk Factors section of MMC's most recently filed Annual Report on Form 10-K.

LEGAL OPINIONS

The validity of the securities in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered will be passed on for us by Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, New York, New York.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc. and subsidiaries (the Company) as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2008, and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008, incorporated by reference herein, have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports (which reports (1) express an unqualified opinion on the consolidated financial statements and includes an explanatory paragraph regarding the Company's retrospective adjustment of the financial statements for discontinued operations, and (2) express an unqualified opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting), which are incorporated herein by reference, upon the authority of said firm as an expert in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents

\$

Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc.

% Senior Notes due

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

, 2011

Joint Book-Running Managers

BofA Merrill Lynch

Citi

Deutsche Bank Securities

Morgan Stanley