

BioAmber Inc.
Form S-3
June 02, 2014
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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 2, 2014

Registration No. 333-

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

BIOAMBER INC.

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

20-1579162
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

1250 Rene Levesque West, Suite 4110

3850 Annapolis Lane North, Suite 180

Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3B 4W8

Plymouth, Minnesota 55447

Telephone: (514) 844-8000

Telephone: (763) 253-4480

(Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Registrant's Principal Executive Offices)

Jean-François Huc

President and Chief Executive Officer

BioAmber Inc.

1250 Rene Levesque West, Suite 4110

Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3B 4W8

Telephone: (514) 844-8000

(Name, Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Agent for Service)

Copies to:

Jocelyn M. Arel, Esq.

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Goodwin Procter LLP

Exchange Place

Boston, Massachusetts 02109-2881

(617) 570-1000

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of this registration statement

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If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

Smaller reporting company

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| Title of Each Class of Securities To Be Registered(1) | Proposed | Amount of Registration Fee(1) |
|--|---|----------------------------------|
| | Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(1) | |
| Common Stock, \$0.01 par value per share | (2) | (2) |
| Preferred Stock, \$0.01 par value per share | (2) | (2) |
| Warrants | (2) | (2) |
| Debt Securities | (2) | (2) |

| | | |
|----------|---------------|----------|
| Units(3) | (2) | (2) |
| Total | \$100,000,000 | \$12,880 |

- (1) An indeterminate amount of the securities of each identified class is being registered as may from time to time be offered hereunder at indeterminate prices, along with an indeterminate number of securities that may be issued upon exercise, settlement, exchange or conversion of securities offered or sold hereunder. Separate consideration may or may not be received for securities that are issuable upon conversion, exercise or exchange of other securities. In addition, the proposed maximum aggregate offering price is estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.
- (2) The proposed maximum aggregate offering price per unit will be determined from time to time by the registrant in connection with the issuance by the registrant of the securities registered hereunder and is not specified as to each class of security pursuant to General Instruction II.D. of Form S-3 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.
- (3) Consisting of some or all of the securities listed above, in any combination, including common stock, preferred stock, debt securities and warrants.

The registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment that specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act, or until the Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Securities and Exchange Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

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The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell or accept an offer to buy these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting offers to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where such offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to Completion, Dated June 2, 2014

PROSPECTUS

\$100,000,000

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Debt Securities

Warrants

Units

From time to time, we may offer up to \$100,000,000 of any combination of the securities described in this prospectus, either individually or in units. Each time we offer securities, we will provide the specific terms of the securities offered in one or more supplements to this prospectus. We may also authorize one or more free writing prospectuses to be provided to you in connection with these offerings. The prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should carefully read this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, as well as any documents incorporated by reference, before buying any of the securities being offered.

The securities offered by this prospectus may be sold directly by us to investors, through agents designated from time to time or to or through underwriters or dealers. We will set forth the names of any underwriters or agents and any applicable fees, commissions, discounts and over-allotments in an accompanying prospectus supplement. For additional information on the methods of sale, you should refer to the section entitled "Plan of Distribution" in this prospectus and in the applicable prospectus supplement. The price to the public of such securities and the net proceeds we expect to receive from such sale will also be set forth in a prospectus supplement.

Our common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "BIOA". On June 2, 2014, the last reported sale price of our common stock on the New York Stock Exchange was \$9.65 per share. The applicable prospectus supplement will contain information, where applicable, as to any other listing, if any, on the New York

Stock Exchange or any securities market or other exchange of the securities covered by the applicable prospectus supplement.

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should review carefully the risks and uncertainties referenced under the heading Risk Factors on page 8 of this prospectus as well as those contained in the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, and in the other documents that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

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.

The date of this prospectus is , 2014.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, utilizing a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may offer shares of our common stock and preferred stock, various series of warrants to purchase common stock or preferred stock and debt securities, either individually or in units, in one or more offerings, up to a total dollar amount of \$100,000,000. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we offer a type or series of securities under this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain more specific information about the specific terms of the offering. We may also authorize one or more free writing prospectuses to be provided to you that may contain material information relating to these offerings. Each such prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus or in documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus. We urge you to carefully read this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, together with the information incorporated herein by reference as described under the headings **Where You Can Find Additional Information** and **Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference** before buying any of the securities being offered.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information in addition to or different from that contained in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus. No dealer, salesperson or other person is authorized to give any information or to represent anything not contained in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any related free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you. You must not rely on any unauthorized information or representation. This prospectus is an offer to sell only the securities offered hereby, but only under circumstances and in jurisdictions where it is lawful to do so. You should assume that the information in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any related free writing prospectus is accurate only as of the date on the front of the document and that any information incorporated by reference is accurate only as of the date of the document incorporated by reference, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any related free writing prospectus, or any sale of a security. Our business, financial condition, results of operating and prospects may have changed materially since those dates.

This prospectus contains summaries of certain provisions contained in some of the documents described herein, but reference is made to the actual documents for complete information. All of the summaries are qualified in their entirety by the actual documents. Copies of some of the documents referred to herein have been filed, will be filed or will be incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, and you may obtain copies of those documents as described below under the heading **Where You Can Find Additional Information**.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We post on our public website (www.bio-amber.com) our Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the SEC. Our website and the information contained on that site, or connected to that site, are not incorporated into and are not a part of this prospectus.

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You can find, copy and inspect information we file with the SEC at the SEC's public reference room, which is located at 100 F Street, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for more information about the operation of the SEC's public reference room. You can also review our electronically filed reports and other information that we file with the SEC on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the SEC. The registration statement contained more information than this prospectus regarding us and the securities, including exhibits and schedules. You can obtain a copy of the registration statement from the SEC at any address listed above or from the SEC's website. You should review the information and exhibits in the registration statement for further information on us and our consolidated subsidiary and the securities we are offering. Statements in this prospectus concerning any document we filed as an exhibit to the registration statement or that we otherwise filed with the SEC are not intended to be comprehensive and are qualified by reference to these filings. You should review the complete document to evaluate these statements.

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INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents instead of having to repeat the information in this prospectus. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, and later information that we file with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below that we have filed with the SEC:

description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A, filed May 1, 2013;

description of our warrants contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A/A filed May 9, 2013 and amended on May 10, 2013;

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013, filed on March 28, 2014;

our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2014, filed on May 13, 2014; and

our Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed with the SEC on April 30, 2014.

We also incorporate by reference into this prospectus all documents (other than current reports furnished under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of Form 8-K and exhibits filed on such form that are related to such items) that are filed by us with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act (i) after the date of the initial filing of the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part and prior to effectiveness of the registration statement, or (ii) after the date of this prospectus until we sell all of the shares covered by this prospectus or the sale of shares by us pursuant to this prospectus is terminated.

A statement contained in a document incorporated by reference into this prospectus shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or in any other subsequently filed document which is also incorporated in this prospectus modifies or replaces such statement. Any statements so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus or in the documents incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of this prospectus or those documents.

You may request a copy of these documents, orally or in writing, which will be provided to you at no cost by contacting: BioAmber Inc., 1250 Rene Levesque West, Suite 4110, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3B 4W8, or calling (514) 844-8000.

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FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus contains statements that are not historical facts and are considered forward-looking within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Exchange Act. These forward-looking statements contain projections of our future results of operations or of our financial position or state other forward-looking information. In some cases you can identify these statements by forward-looking words such as anticipate, believe, could, continue, estimate, expect, intend, may, plan, projected or the negative of such words or other similar words or phrases. We believe that it is important to communicate our future expectations to our investors. However, there may be events in the future that we are not able to accurately predict or control and that may cause our actual results to differ materially from the expectations we describe in our forward-looking statements. Investors are cautioned not to unduly rely on forward-looking statements because they involve risks and uncertainties, and actual results may differ materially from those discussed as a result of various factors, including, but not limited to:

the expected funding sources of our planned Sarnia, Ontario plant and our other planned manufacturing facilities and the expected timing of the completion of construction and the start of commercial operations at each of these facilities;

our joint venture with Mitsui & Co. Ltd., or Mitsui;

our take-or-pay agreement with Vinmar International Ltd., or Vinmar, related to bio-based 1, 4 BDO;

our take-or-pay agreement with PTT MCC Biochem Company Limited, or PTTMCC, related to bio-succinic acid from our planned Sarnia, Ontario plant;

the expected applications of our products and the sizes of addressable markets;

our ability to gain market acceptance for bio-succinic acid, its derivatives and other building block chemicals;

the benefits of our transition from our *E. coli* bacteria to our yeast;

our ability to commence commercial sales and execute on our commercial expansion plan, including the timing and volume of our future production and sales;

the expected cost-competitiveness and relative performance attributes of our bio-succinic acid and the products derived from it;

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our ability to cost-effectively produce and commercialize bio-succinic acid, its derivatives and other building block chemicals;

customer qualification, approval and acceptance of our products;

our ability to maintain and advance strategic partnerships and collaborations and the expected benefits and accessible markets related to those partnerships and collaborations;

our ability to economically obtain feedstock and other inputs;

the achievement of advances in our technology platform;

our ability to obtain and maintain intellectual property protection for our products and processes and not infringe on others' rights;

government regulatory and industry certification approvals for our facilities and products;

government policymaking and incentives relating to bio-chemicals;

and other risks and uncertainties referenced under "Risk Factors" below and in any applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus and any documents incorporated by reference herein or therein. You should not place undue reliance on our forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date on which the statements were made and are not guarantees of future performance. Except as may be required by applicable law, we do not undertake or intend to update any forward-looking statements after the date of this prospectus or the respective dates of documents incorporated herein or therein that include forward-looking statements.

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SUMMARY

This summary highlights selected information from this prospectus or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, and does not contain all of the information that you need to consider in making your investment decision. You should carefully read the entire prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, including the risks of investing in our securities referred to under the heading **Risk Factors** in this prospectus and contained in the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, and in the other documents that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus. You should also carefully read the information incorporated by reference into this prospectus, including our financial statements, and the exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

Unless otherwise mentioned or unless the context requires otherwise, throughout this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, the words **BioAmber**, **we**, **us**, **our**, **the company** or similar references refer to BioAmber Inc. and its subsidiaries; and the term **securities** refers collectively to our common stock, preferred stock, warrants to purchase common stock or preferred stock, debt securities, or any combination of the foregoing securities.

This prospectus and the information incorporated herein by reference includes trademarks, service marks and trade names owned by us or other companies. All trademarks, service marks and trade names included or incorporated by reference into this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any related free writing prospectus are the property of their respective owners.

Our Company

We are an industrial biotechnology company producing sustainable chemicals. Our proprietary technology platform combines industrial biotechnology and chemical catalysis to convert renewable feedstocks into sustainable chemicals that are cost-competitive replacements for petroleum-derived chemicals, which are used in a wide variety of everyday products including plastics, resins, food additives and personal care products. We currently sell our first product, bio-succinic acid, to customers in a variety of chemical markets. We intend to produce bio-succinic acid that is cost-competitive with succinic acid produced from petroleum at our planned facility in Sarnia, Ontario. We currently produce our bio-succinic acid in a large-scale demonstration facility using a 350,000 liter fermenter in Pomacle, France, which we believe to be among the largest bio-based chemical fermenters in the world. We have produced approximately 3.39 million pounds, or 1.539 metric tons, of bio-succinic acid at this facility as of May 31, 2014.

Succinic acid can be used to manufacture a wide variety of products used every day, including plastics, food additives and personal care products, and can also be used as a building block for a number of derivative chemicals. Today, petroleum-derived succinic acid is not used in many potential applications because of its relatively high production costs and selling price. We believe that our low-cost production capability and our development of next-generation bio-succinic derived products including 1,4 BDO, which is used to produce polyesters, plastics, spandex and other products, will provide us with access to a more than \$10 billion market opportunity. Combining these opportunities with other building block chemicals we are developing, such as adipic acid, which is used in the production of nylons, we believe that our total addressable market is in excess of \$30 billion.

We believe we can produce bio-succinic acid that is cost-competitive with succinic acid produced from oil priced as low as \$35 per barrel, based on management's estimates of production costs at our planned facility in Sarnia, Ontario and an assumed corn price of \$6.50 per bushel. While we can provide no assurance that we will be able to secure corn at \$6.50 per bushel given the fluctuations in corn prices, we believe this assumption is reasonable given the historic price of corn and management's expectations as to their ability to manage the cost of glucose from corn and other

inputs for our planned facility in Sarnia, Ontario. Over the past five years, the price of corn ranged from a low of \$2.68 per bushel to a high of \$8.44 per bushel. As of May 31, 2014, the spot price was \$4.52 per bushel and the six-month forward price was \$4.58 per bushel. We estimate that a \$1.00 increase or decrease in the per bushel price of corn would result in just a \$0.025 per pound change in our variable cost of our bio-succinic acid. We expect the productivity of our yeast organism and on-going process improvements to further reduce our production costs. Our ability to compete on cost is not dependent on government subsidies or tariffs.

We have signed a take-or-pay supply agreement with PTT-MCC Biochem for the supply of bio-succinic acid for their subsequent production of bio-based polymers. We have entered into strategic relationships with several segment leaders, such as our partnership with LANXESS for phthalate-free plasticizers made with bio-succinic acid, our agreement with Inolex for the development and commercialization of succinic acid esters in personal care applications, and our collaboration with Stahl for the development of coatings made with our bio-succinic acid.

We have also entered into technology partnerships to lower our production costs, expand our product portfolio and enhance our biochemical production platform. For example, we entered into a technology partnership with Cargill through which we exclusively

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license a proprietary yeast organism for use in our fermentation process to produce our products. We refer to the yeast organism that we have licensed from Cargill as our yeast. We have also established other technology licenses and collaborations, including with DuPont, Evonik and Celexion.

Our business strategy is to leverage the value of our technology by building and operating production facilities around the world. However, depending on our access to capital and third-party demand for our technology, we may also enter into technology licenses on an opportunistic basis.

In order to support our growth, we plan to rapidly expand our manufacturing capacity beyond the current production at the large-scale demonstration facility we operate in Pomacle, France. We have entered into a joint venture with Mitsui to finance, build and operate a manufacturing facility in Sarnia, Ontario through our BioAmber Sarnia subsidiary in which we own a 70% equity interest and Mitsui owns the remaining 30%. The joint venture agreement, which was entered into on November 2, 2011 and amended on January 24, 2014, also establishes our non-binding intent to build and operate a BDO and/or succinic acid production facility with Mitsui, which we expect to occur by the end of 2017. As part of the amendment, Mitsui increased its maximum capital commitment to the project from \$23.7 million to \$45.6 million in order to maintain a 30% equity stake in the joint venture. In exchange, Mitsui obtained the right to sell us back its shares in the Sarnia joint venture under certain specific circumstances: (i) Mitsui has the right to sell its shares and we have the obligation to purchase those shares at 100% of the investment value if the cost of the Sarnia facility is greater than \$140 million and we do not provide the additional funds to complete the facility, with a corresponding increase in our prorata share of the joint venture; (ii) in the event of an occurrence of a dissolution event of the joint venture until December 31, 2020, Mitsui has the right to sell its shares and we have the obligation to purchase those shares at 100% of the investment value, with the dissolution event consisting of the Sarnia plant not being operational by January 31, 2016, cumulative losses accrued from 2016 through 2020 exceeding 75% of paid-in capital, no after-tax profit earned in any three consecutive years from 2016 onwards, and any act of insolvency, bankruptcy, or similar event, and (iii) until December 31, 2018, Mitsui in its sole discretion may sell its shares and we must purchase those shares at a 50% discount to their investment value.

To date, we have entered into several supply agreements and memoranda of understanding, or MOUs, that contemplate, but do not obligate, us to supply approximately 144,000 metric tons of bio-succinic acid, and, as we continue construction of our planned facility in Sarnia, Ontario, we are actively seeking to enter into definitive supply agreements and form new relationships with potential customers. For example, on April 18, 2014, we entered into a three year supply agreement with PTT MCC Biochem Company Limited, or PTTMCC, a joint venture between PTT Public Company Limited and Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation that was established to produce and sell polybutylene succinate, or PBS, a biodegradable plastic made from succinic acid and 1,4 BDO. PTTMCC is constructing a PBS plant in Thailand that is expected to be operational in the first half of 2015 and consume approximately 14,000 tons of succinic acid per year at full capacity. This supply agreement provides that we will exclusively supply a minimum of 80% of PTTMCC's total bio-succinic needs until the end of 2017, with approximately 50% of the total purchases under take-or-pay terms. This is one of many potential customers and applications that we are targeting for the bio-succinic acid that we plan to produce at our Sarnia facility, and we expect to enter into additional definitive supply agreements in advance of mechanical completion in late 2014 or early 2015. These supply agreements reflect our ongoing efforts to expand the succinic acid addressable market into new applications such as PBS.

We also expect to grow our revenue base by developing new value-added applications and derivative products. On January 22, 2014, we entered into a 15 year take-or-pay contract for bio-based 1,4-Butanediol (BDO) with Vinmar International Ltd., a privately held marketing, distribution, and project developed company headquartered in Houston, Texas. Under the terms of the master off-take agreement, Vinmar has committed to purchase 100% of the bio-based 1, 4 BDO produced in a 100,000 metric ton per year capacity plant that we plan to build in North America and commission in 2017. Vinmar also plans to invest in the facility alongside us. While this agreement is binding, our

inability to finance and construct the BDO plant would relieve Vinmar of its obligation to purchase BDO under the terms of the take-or-pay agreement.

We are committed to managing our economic, social, environmental and ethical performance through continued sustainable business practices. We have completed a life cycle analysis for our planned facility in Sarnia that indicates that no carbon dioxide equivalent (or greenhouse gases) will be emitted per kilogram of our bio-succinic acid produced, making our process carbon neutral. This is significantly less carbon intensive than the current petrochemical process for making succinic acid, in which 7.1 kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent are emitted per kilogram of succinic acid produced. This represents a 100% reduction in greenhouse gases for our bio-succinic acid process, relative to the current petrochemical process for making succinic acid. The life cycle analysis also indicates that our planned facility in Sarnia will consume 60% less energy than the current petrochemical process.

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We were incorporated in the State of Delaware in October 2008 as DNP Green Technology, Inc. and were established as the result of the spin-off of certain assets from Diversified Natural Products, Inc. In September 2010, we acquired the 50% interest in our joint venture BioAmber S.A.S. that we did not already own, after which, BioAmber S.A.S. became wholly owned by us. Concurrent with this acquisition, we changed our name from DNP Green Technology, Inc. to BioAmber Inc. and changed our fiscal year end from June 30 to December 31.

Our principal executive offices are located at 1250 Rene Levesque West, Suite 4110, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3B 4W8, and our principal research and development facility is located at 3850 Annapolis Lane North, Suite 180, Plymouth, Minnesota, United States of America, 55447. Our telephone number in the United States is (763) 253-4480 and our telephone number in Canada is (514) 844-8000. Our website address is www.bio-amber.com. We do not incorporate the information on or accessible through our website into this prospectus, and you should not consider any information on, or that can be accessed through, our website as part of this prospectus.

The Securities We May Offer

We may offer shares of our common stock and preferred stock, various series of warrants to purchase common stock or preferred stock and debt securities, in one or more series, as either senior or subordinated debt or as senior or subordinated convertible debt, either individually or in units, with a total value of up to \$100,000,000 from time to time under this prospectus at prices and on terms to be determined at the time of any offering. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we offer a type or series of securities under this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will describe the specific amounts, prices and other important terms of the securities.

The prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus or in documents we have incorporated by reference. However, no prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus will offer a security that is not registered and described in this prospectus at the time of the effectiveness of the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

We may sell the securities directly to investors or to or through agents, underwriters or dealers. We, and our agents or underwriters, reserve the right to accept or reject all or part of any proposed purchase of securities. If we do offer securities to or through agents or underwriters, we will include in the applicable prospectus supplement:

the names of those agents or underwriters;

applicable fees, discounts and commissions to be paid to them;

details regarding over-allotment options, if any; and

the net proceeds to us.

Common Stock. We may issue shares of our common stock from time to time. Holders of shares of our common stock are entitled to one vote for each share held of record on all matters to be voted on by stockholders and do not have cumulative voting rights. Subject to the preferences that may be applicable to any then outstanding preferred stock, the

holders of our outstanding shares of common stock are entitled to receive dividends, if any, as may be declared from time to time by our board of directors out of legally available funds. In the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, holders of our common stock will be entitled to share ratably in the net assets legally available for distribution to stockholders after the payment of all of our debts and other liabilities, subject to the satisfaction of any liquidation preference granted to the holders of any outstanding shares of preferred stock.

Preferred Stock. We may issue shares of our preferred stock from time to time, in one or more series. Our board of directors will determine the rights, preferences and privileges of the shares of each wholly unissued series, and any qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereon, including dividend rights, conversion rights, preemptive rights, terms of redemption or repurchase, liquidation preferences, sinking fund terms and the number of shares constituting any series or the designation of any series. Convertible preferred stock will be convertible into our common stock or exchangeable for other securities. Conversion may be mandatory or at your option and would be at prescribed conversion rates.

If we sell any series of preferred stock under this prospectus, we will fix the rights, preferences and privileges of the preferred stock of such series, as well as any qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereon, in the certificate of designation relating to that series. We will file as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or will incorporate by reference from reports that we file with the SEC, the form of any certificate of designation that describes the terms of the series of preferred stock we are offering before the issuance of that series of preferred stock. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you related to the series of preferred stock being offered, as well as the complete certificate of designation that contains the terms of the applicable series of preferred stock.

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Debt Securities. We may issue debt securities, in one or more series, as either senior or subordinated debt or as senior or subordinated convertible debt. In this prospectus, we have summarized certain general features of the debt securities. We urge you, however, to read the applicable prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you related to the particular series of debt securities being offered, as well as the complete indenture that contains the terms of the debt securities. We will file as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, the form of indenture and any supplemental agreements that describe the terms of the series of debt securities we are offering before the issuance of the related series of debt securities.

We may evidence each series of debt securities by indentures we will issue. Debt securities may be issued under an indenture that we enter into with a trustee. We will indicate the name and address of the trustee, if applicable, in the prospectus supplement relating to the particular series of debt securities being offered.

Warrants. We may issue warrants for the purchase of common stock and/or preferred stock in one or more series. We may issue warrants independently or together with common stock and/or preferred stock and/or debt securities, and the warrants may be attached to or separate from these securities. In this prospectus, we have summarized certain general features of the warrants. We urge you, however, to read the applicable prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you related to the particular series of warrants being offered, as well as the complete warrant agreements and warrant certificates that contain the terms of the warrants. Forms of the warrant agreements and forms of warrant certificates containing the terms of the warrants being offered will be filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part or will be incorporated by reference from reports that we file with the SEC.

We will evidence each series of warrants by warrant certificates that we will issue. Warrants may be issued under an applicable warrant agreement that we enter into with a warrant agent. We will indicate the name and address of the warrant agent, if applicable, in the prospectus supplement relating to the particular series of warrants being offered.

Units. We may issue, in one or more series, units consisting of common stock, preferred stock, debt securities and/or warrants for the purchase of common stock and/or preferred stock in any combination. In this prospectus, we have summarized certain general features of the units. We urge you, however, to read the applicable prospectus supplement (and any free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you) related to the series of units being offered, as well as the complete unit agreement that contains the terms of the units. We will file as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or will incorporate by reference from reports that we file with the SEC, the form of unit agreement and any supplemental agreements that describe the terms of the series of units we are offering before the issuance of the related series of units.

We will evidence each series of units by unit certificates that we will issue. Units may be issued under a unit agreement that we enter into with a unit agent. We will indicate the name and address of the unit agent, if applicable, in the prospectus supplement relating to the particular series of units being offered.

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RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. Before purchasing our securities, you should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties set forth under the heading "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013, filed with the SEC on March 28, 2014, and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2014, filed with SEC on May 13, 2014, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus, as well as any updates thereto contained in subsequent filings with the SEC or any applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus. If any of these risks were to occur, our business, financial condition or results of operations would likely suffer. In that event, the value of our securities could decline, and you could lose all or part of your investment. The risks and uncertainties we describe are not the only ones facing us. Additional risks not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also impair our business operations.

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RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

Our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for each of the five most recently completed fiscal years and any required interim periods will each be specified in a prospectus supplement or in a document that we file with the SEC and incorporate by reference pertaining to the issuance, if any, by us of preference securities in the future.

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USE OF PROCEEDS

Except as described in any prospectus supplement or in any related free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you, the net proceeds received by us from our sale of the securities described in this prospectus will be added to our general funds and will be used for our general corporate purposes. From time to time, we may engage in additional public or private financings of a character and amount which we may deem appropriate.

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DILUTION

If there is a material dilution of the purchasers' equity interest from the sale of common equity securities offered under this prospectus, we will set forth in any prospectus supplement the following information regarding any such material dilution of the equity interests of purchasers' securities in an offering under this prospectus:

the net tangible book value per share of our equity securities before and after the offering;

the amount of the increase in such net tangible book value per share attributable to the cash payments made by the purchasers in the offering; and

the amount of the immediate dilution from the public offering price which will be absorbed by such purchasers.

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PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities from time to time pursuant to underwritten public offerings, negotiated transactions, block trades or a combination of these methods. We may sell the securities to or through underwriters or dealers, through agents, or directly to one or more purchasers. We may distribute securities from time to time in one or more transactions:

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

at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;

at prices related to such prevailing market prices; or

at negotiated prices.

Each time we offer and sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will set forth the terms of the offering of the securities, including:

the name or names of the underwriters, if any;

the purchase price of the securities and the proceeds we will receive from the sale;

any over-allotment options under which underwriters may purchase additional securities;

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

any public offering price;

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

any securities exchange or market on which the securities may be listed.

If underwriters are used in the sale, they will acquire the securities for their own account and may resell the securities from time to time in one or more transactions at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. The obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to the conditions set forth in the applicable underwriting agreement. We may offer the securities to the public through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters or by underwriters without a syndicate. Subject to certain conditions, the

underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of the securities offered by the prospectus supplement, other than securities covered by any over-allotment option. Any public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may change from time to time. We may use underwriters with whom we or they have a material relationship. The prospectus supplement, naming the underwriter, will describe the nature of any such relationship.

We may sell securities directly or through agents we or they designate from time to time. The prospectus supplement will name any agent involved in the offering and sale of securities and any commissions we will pay to them. Unless the prospectus supplement states otherwise, any agent will be acting on a best-efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

We may authorize agents or underwriters to solicit offers by certain purchasers to purchase securities from us or them 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 prospectus supplement will set forth the conditions to these contracts and any commissions we must pay for solicitation of these contracts.

We may provide agents and underwriters with indemnification against civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or contribution with respect to payments that the agents or underwriters may make with respect to these liabilities. Agents and underwriters may engage in transactions with, or perform services for, us in the ordinary course of business.

All securities we may offer, other than common stock, will be new issues of securities with no established trading market. Any underwriters may make a market in these securities, but will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. We cannot guarantee the liquidity of the trading markets for any securities.

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Any underwriter may engage in over-allotment, stabilizing transactions, short-covering transactions and penalty bids in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act. Over-allotment involves sales in excess of the offering size, which create a short position. Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum price. Syndicate-covering or other short-covering transactions involve purchases of the securities, either through exercise of the over-allotment option or in the open market after the distribution is completed, to cover short positions. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a dealer when the securities originally sold by the dealer are purchased in a stabilizing or covering transaction to cover short positions. Those activities may cause the price of the securities to be higher than it would otherwise be. If commenced, the underwriters may discontinue any of the activities at any time.

Any underwriters that are qualified market makers on the New York Stock Exchange, or NYSE, may engage in passive market making transactions in the common stock on the NYSE in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act, during the business day prior to the pricing of the offering, before the commencement of offers or sales of the common stock. Passive market makers must comply with applicable volume and price limitations and must be identified as passive market makers. In general, a passive market maker must display its bid at a price not in excess of the highest independent bid for such security; if all independent bids are lowered below the passive market maker's bid, however, the passive market maker's bid must then be lowered when certain purchase limits are exceeded. Passive market making may stabilize the market price of the securities at a level above that which might otherwise prevail in the open market and, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time.

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DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

General

Our authorized capital stock consists of 250,000,000 shares of common stock, \$0.01 par value per share, and 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock, \$0.01 par value per share. As of May 31, 2014, there were 18,586,299 shares of our common stock outstanding, warrants issued as part of the units in our initial public offering, or IPO warrants, to purchase 4,000,000 shares of our common stock and warrants issued prior to our initial public offering, or legacy warrants, to purchase 1,305,371 shares of our common stock outstanding.

The following summary description of our capital stock is based on the provisions of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, amended and restated bylaws, form of IPO warrant, legacy warrants and the applicable provisions of the Delaware General Corporation Law. This information is qualified entirely by reference to the applicable provisions of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, amended and restated bylaws, form of IPO warrant, legacy warrants and the Delaware General Corporation Law. For information on how to obtain copies of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws, which are exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, see [Where You Can Find Additional Information](#) and [Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference](#).

Common Stock

Holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote for each share of common stock held of record for the election of directors and on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders. Holders of our common stock do not have cumulative voting rights in the election of directors. Holders of our common stock are entitled to receive dividends ratably, if any, as may be declared by our board of directors out of legally available funds, subject to any preferential dividend rights of any preferred stock then outstanding. Upon our dissolution, liquidation or winding up, holders of our common stock are entitled to share ratably in our net assets legally available after the payment of all our debts and other liabilities, subject to the preferential rights of any preferred stock then outstanding. Holders of our common stock have no preemptive, subscription, redemption or conversion rights. There are no sinking fund provisions applicable to our common stock. The rights, preferences and privileges of holders of common stock are subject to, and may be adversely affected by, the rights of the holders of shares of any series of preferred stock that we may designate and issue in the future. Except as described under [Antitakeover Effects of Delaware Law, Provisions of our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated By-laws and French Law Takeover Regulations](#) below, a majority vote of the holders of common stock is generally required to take action under our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated by-laws.

IPO Warrants

The following description of our IPO warrants is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by, the form of IPO warrant, which filed as an exhibit to our registration statement on Form S-1 file number 333-177917. You should review a copy of the form of IPO warrant for a complete description of the terms and conditions applicable to the IPO warrants.

Term. The IPO warrants are exercisable during the period beginning on August 8, 2013 and ending at 5:30 P.M. on May 9, 2017. The term can also be extended by us at our sole discretion.

Anti-Dilution Protection. The IPO warrants contain full ratchet anti-dilution protection upon the issuance of any common stock, securities convertible into common stock or certain other issuances at a price below the then-existing exercise price of the IPO warrants, with certain exceptions.

Exercise Price. The exercise price of the IPO warrants is \$11.00 per whole share of common stock. The exercise price is subject to appropriate adjustment in the event of certain stock dividends and distributions, stock splits, stock combinations, stock issuances, reclassifications or similar events affecting our common stock, as well as the anti-dilution protection described above. The exercise price can also be lowered by us at our sole discretion.

Exercisability. The IPO warrants became exercisable on August 8, 2013 and are exercisable at any time during the applicable term of the IPO warrant. The IPO warrants are exercisable, at the option of each holder, in whole or in part, by delivering to us a duly executed exercise notice accompanied by payment in full for the number of shares of our common stock purchased upon such exercise.

No Fractional Shares. No fractional shares or scrip representing fractional shares shall be issued upon the exercise of the IPO warrants. As to any fraction of a share which the holder would otherwise be entitled to purchase upon such exercise, we shall, at our election, either pay a cash adjustment in respect of such final fraction in an amount equal to such fraction multiplied by the exercise price of the IPO warrant or round up to the next whole share.

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Transferability. Subject to applicable laws and the restriction on transfer set forth in the IPO warrants, the IPO warrants may be transferred at the option of the holder upon surrender of the IPO warrants to us together with the appropriate instruments of transfer.

Authorized Shares. During the period the IPO warrants are outstanding, we will reserve from our authorized and unissued common stock a sufficient number of shares to provide for the issuance of shares of common stock underlying the IPO warrants upon the exercise of the IPO warrants.

Exchange Listing. The IPO warrants are listed on NYSE under the symbol `BIOA.WS` .

Fundamental Transactions. In the event of any fundamental transaction, as described in the IPO warrants and generally including any merger with or into another entity, sale of all or substantially all of our assets, tender offer or exchange offer, or reclassification of our common stock, then upon any subsequent exercise of an IPO warrant the holder shall have the right to receive as alternative consideration, for each share of our common stock that would have been issuable upon such exercise immediately prior to the occurrence of such fundamental transaction, the number of shares of common stock of the successor or acquiring corporation or of BioAmber, if it is the surviving corporation, and any additional consideration receivable upon or as a result of such transaction by a holder of the number of shares of our common stock for which the IPO warrant is exercisable immediately prior to such event. In addition, in the event of a fundamental transaction in which the amount of the alternate consideration is less than the exercise price of the warrant, then we or any successor entity shall pay at the holder's option, exercisable at any time concurrently with or within ninety (90) days after the consummation of the fundamental transaction, an amount of cash equal to the value of the IPO warrant as determined in accordance with the Black Scholes option pricing model.

Right as a Stockholder. Except as otherwise provided in the IPO warrants or by virtue of such holder's ownership of shares of our common stock, the holders of the IPO warrants do not have the rights or privileges of holders of our common stock, including any voting rights, until they exercise their IPO warrants.

Waivers and Amendments. Any term of the IPO warrants may be amended or waived with our written consent and the written consent of holders representing $66\frac{2}{3}\%$ of the shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the IPO warrants then outstanding. The foregoing notwithstanding, we may extend the termination date and reduce the exercise price without the consent of the holders.

Enforceability of Rights by Holders of IPO Warrants. Each IPO warrant agent will act solely as our agent under the applicable IPO warrant agreement and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust with any holder of any IPO warrant. A single bank or trust company may act as IPO warrant agent for more than one issue of IPO warrants. A IPO warrant agent will have no duty or responsibility in case of any default by us under the applicable IPO warrant agreement or IPO warrant, including any duty or responsibility to initiate any proceedings at law or otherwise, or to make any demand upon us. Any holder of a an IPO warrant may, without the consent of the related IPO warrant agent or the holder of any other IPO warrant, enforce by appropriate legal action its right to exercise, and receive the securities purchasable upon exercise of, its IPO warrants.

Legacy Warrants

As of May 31, 2014, legacy warrants to purchase 334,541 shares of our common stock at an exercise price of \$1.07, legacy warrants to purchase 610,890 shares of our common stock at an exercise price of \$1.43 per share, legacy warrants to purchase 264,670 shares of our common stock at an exercise price of \$5.74 per share, and legacy warrants to purchase 96,576 shares of our common stock at an exercise price of \$10.55 per share were outstanding. Some of these legacy warrants have a net exercise provision under which its holder may, in lieu of payment of the exercise

price in cash, surrender the legacy warrant and receive a net amount of shares based on a the fair market value of our common stock at the time of exercise of the legacy warrant after deduction of the aggregate exercise price. Each warrant contains provisions for the adjustment of the exercise price and the number of shares issuable upon the exercise of the legacy warrant in the event of certain stock dividends, stock splits, reorganizations, reclassifications and consolidations. Certain holders of the shares issuable upon exercise of our legacy warrants are entitled to registration rights with respect to such shares as described in greater detail under the heading Registration Rights below.

Preferred Stock

Pursuant to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, our board of directors has the authority, without further action by the stockholders (unless such stockholder action is required by applicable law or NYSE rules), to designate and issue up to 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock in one or more series, to establish from time to time the number of shares to be included in each such series, to fix the rights, preferences and privileges of the shares of each wholly unissued series, and any qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereon, and to increase or decrease the number of shares of any such series, but not below the number of shares of such series then outstanding.

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We will fix the rights, preferences and privileges of the preferred stock of each such series, as well as any qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereon, in the certificate of designation relating to that series. We will file as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or will incorporate by reference from reports that we file with the SEC, the form of any certificate of designation that describes the terms of the series of preferred stock we are offering before the issuance of that series of preferred stock. This description will include:

the title and stated value;

the number of shares we are offering;

the liquidation preference per share;

the purchase price;

the dividend rate, period and payment date and method of calculation for dividends;

whether dividends will be cumulative or non-cumulative and, if cumulative, the date from which dividends will accumulate;

the procedures for any auction and remarketing, if any;

the provisions for a sinking fund, if any;

the provisions for redemption or repurchase, if applicable, and any restrictions on our ability to exercise those redemption and repurchase rights;

any listing of the preferred stock on any securities exchange or market;

whether the preferred stock will be exchangeable into debt securities, and, if applicable, the exchange price, or how it will be calculated, and the exchange period;

voting rights, if any, of the preferred stock;

preemptive rights, if any;

restrictions on transfer, sale or other assignment, if any;

whether interests in the preferred stock will be represented by depositary shares;

a discussion of any material United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the preferred stock;

the relative ranking and preferences of the preferred stock as to dividend rights and rights if we liquidate, dissolve or wind up our affairs;