

Manitex International, Inc.
Form 424B5
January 23, 2017
Table of Contents

**Filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
Registration Number 333-213808**

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(To Prospectus dated October 3, 2016)

Up to \$20,000,000

Common Stock

We have entered into a Controlled Equity OfferingSM sales agreement with Cantor Fitzgerald & Co., relating to shares of our common stock offered by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. In accordance with the terms of the sales agreement, we may offer and sell shares of our common stock having an aggregate offering price of up to \$20,000,000 from time to time through Cantor Fitzgerald & Co., acting as agent.

Our common stock is listed on The NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol MNTX. On January 20, 2017, the last reported sale price of our common stock on The NASDAQ Capital Market was \$9.27 per share.

Sales of our common stock, if any, under this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus may be made in sales deemed to be an at the market offering as defined in Rule 415(a)(4) promulgated under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, including sales made directly on or through The NASDAQ Capital Market or any other existing trading market for our common stock. Cantor Fitzgerald & Co. will act as sales agent on a best efforts basis and use commercially reasonable efforts to sell on our behalf all of the shares of common stock requested to be sold by us, consistent with its normal trading and sales practices, on mutually agreed terms between Cantor Fitzgerald & Co. and us. There is no arrangement for funds to be received in any escrow, trust or similar arrangement.

Cantor Fitzgerald & Co. will be entitled to compensation at a fixed commission rate of 3.0% of the gross sales price per share sold. In connection with the sale of our common stock on our behalf, Cantor Fitzgerald & Co. will be deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act and the compensation of Cantor Fitzgerald & Co. will be deemed to be underwriting commissions or discounts.

You should read carefully this prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement before you invest. Investing in our common stock involves risks. Please see Risk Factors on page S-5 for more information.

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

The date of this prospectus supplement is January 23, 2017.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prospectus Supplement

<u>About this Prospectus Supplement</u>	S-1
<u>Prospectus Supplement Summary</u>	S-2
<u>The Offering</u>	S-4
<u>Risk Factors</u>	S-5
<u>Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	S-6
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	S-8
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	S-9
<u>Legal Matters</u>	S-10
<u>Experts</u>	S-10
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	S-10
<u>Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference</u>	S-11

Prospectus

<u>About Manitex International, Inc.</u>	1
<u>Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference</u>	3
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	3
<u>Risk Factors</u>	4
<u>Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	5
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	7
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	7
<u>Description of Capital Stock</u>	8
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	11
<u>Description of Warrants</u>	20
<u>Description of Units</u>	21
<u>Description of Purchase Rights</u>	21
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	22
<u>Legal Matters</u>	24
<u>Experts</u>	24

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, dated October 3, 2016, are part of a registration statement that we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, utilizing a shelf registration process. Under the shelf registration process, we may offer shares of our common stock having an aggregate offering price of up to \$20,000,000 from time to time under this prospectus supplement at prices and on terms to be determined by market conditions at the time of offering.

We provide information to you about this offering of shares of our common stock in two separate documents that are bound together: (1) this sales agreement prospectus supplement, which describes the specific details regarding this offering; and (2) the accompanying base prospectus, which provides general information, some of which may not apply to this offering. Generally, when we refer to this prospectus supplement, we are referring to both documents combined. If information in this sales agreement prospectus supplement is inconsistent with the accompanying base prospectus, you should rely on this prospectus supplement. However, if any statement in one of these documents is inconsistent with a statement in another document having a later date for example, a document incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement the statement in the document having the later date modifies or supersedes the earlier statement as our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since the earlier dates.

You should rely only on the information contained in, or incorporated by reference into, this prospectus supplement and in any free writing prospectus supplement that we may authorize for use in connection with this offering. We have not, and Cantor Fitzgerald & Co., or Cantor, has not, authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not, and Cantor is not, making an offer to sell or soliciting an offer to buy our securities in any jurisdiction in which an offer or solicitation is not authorized or in which the person making that offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to anyone to whom it is unlawful to make an offer or solicitation. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus supplement, the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement, and in any free writing prospectus supplement that we may authorize for use in connection with this offering, is accurate only as of the date of those respective documents. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates. You should read this prospectus supplement, the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement, and any free writing prospectus supplement that we may authorize for use in connection with this offering, in their entirety before making an investment decision. You should also read and consider the information in the documents to which we have referred you in the sections of this prospectus supplement entitled *Where You Can Find More Information* and *Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference*.

We are offering to sell, and seeking offers to buy, shares of common stock only in jurisdictions where offers and sales are permitted. The distribution of this prospectus supplement and the offering of the common stock in certain jurisdictions may be restricted by law. Persons outside the United States who come into possession of this prospectus supplement must inform themselves about, and observe any restrictions relating to, the offering of the common stock and the distribution of this prospectus supplement outside the United States. This prospectus supplement does not constitute, and may not be used in connection with, an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to buy, any securities offered by this prospectus supplement by any person in any jurisdiction in which it is unlawful for such person to make such an offer or solicitation.

All references in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus to the company, Manitex, we, us, or similar references mean Manitex International, Inc., together in each case with our subsidiaries and any predecessor entities, unless otherwise mentioned or unless the context requires otherwise.

S-1

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY

The items in the following summary are described in more detail elsewhere in this prospectus supplement and in the documents incorporated by reference herein. This summary provides an overview of selected information and does not contain all the information you should consider before investing in our common stock. Therefore, you should read the entire prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus supplement that we have authorized for use in connection with this offering carefully, including the Risk Factors section and other documents or information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement before making any investment decision.

We are a leading provider of engineered lifting solutions, including cranes. We operate in three business segments: the Lifting Equipment segment, the ASV segment and the Equipment Distribution segment.

Our predecessor company was formed in 1993 and was purchased in 2003 by Veri-Tek International, Corp., which changed its name to Manitex International, Inc. in 2008. Our principal executive offices are located at 9725 Industrial Drive, Bridgeview, Illinois, and our telephone number is (708) 430-7500. We maintain a website at www.manitexinternational.com. The information contained on our website or that can be accessed through our website is not part of this prospectus or any prospectus supplement we may use in connection herewith.

Lifting Equipment Segment

We are a leading provider of engineered lifting solutions. We design, manufacture and distribute a diverse group of products that serve different functions and are used in a variety of industries. Through our Manitex, Inc. subsidiary we market a comprehensive line of boom trucks, truck cranes and sign cranes. Our boom trucks and crane products are primarily used for industrial projects, energy exploration and infrastructure development, including roads, bridges and commercial construction. Badger Equipment Company, or Badger, is a manufacturer of specialized rough terrain cranes and material handling products. Badger primarily serves the needs of the construction, municipality and railroad industries.

PM Group S.p.A. is a leading Italian manufacturer of truck mounted hydraulic knuckle boom cranes with a 50-year history of technology and innovation, and a product range spanning more than 50 models. Its largest subsidiary, Oil & Steel, S.p.A. is a manufacturer of truck-mounted aerial platforms with a diverse product line and an international client base.

Manitex Sabre, Inc. manufactures a comprehensive line of specialized mobile tanks for liquid and solid storage and containment solutions with capacities from 8,000 to 21,000 gallons. Its mobile tanks are sold to specialized independent tank rental companies and through our existing dealer network. The tanks are used in a variety of end markets such as petrochemical, waste management and oil and gas drilling.

ASV Segment

A.S.V., LLC, or ASV, manufactures a line of high quality compact track and skid steer loaders. The products are used in the site clearing, general construction, forestry, golf course maintenance and landscaping industries, with general construction being the largest market. The ASV products are primarily distributed through its dealer network as well as through Manitex and Terex and other independent dealers. We have a 51% ownership interest in ASV.

S-2

Table of Contents

Equipment Distribution Segment

The Equipment Distribution segment consists of two of our subsidiaries, Crane and Machinery, Inc., or C&M, and Crane and Machinery Leasing, Inc., or C&M Leasing. C&M is a distributor of Terex rough terrain and truck cranes products as well as our own products. C&M offers equipment repair services in the Chicago area and supplies repair parts for a wide variety of medium to heavy duty construction equipment both domestically and internationally.

C&M Leasing rents equipment manufactured by us as well limited amount of equipment manufactures third parties.

Table of Contents

THE OFFERING

Common stock offered by us	Shares of our common stock having an aggregate offering price of up to \$20,000,000.
Common Stock to be outstanding after this offering	Up to 18,295,660 (as more fully described in the notes following this table), assuming sales of 2,157,497 shares of our common stock in this offering at an offering price of \$9.27 per share, which was the last reported sale price of our common stock on The NASDAQ Capital Market on January 20, 2017. The actual number of shares issued will vary depending on the sales price under this offering.
Manner of offering	At the market offering that may be made from time to time through our sales agent, Cantor Fitzgerald & Co. See Plan of Distribution on page S-9.
Use of Proceeds	We intend to use the proceeds of this offering for general corporate purposes. See Use of Proceeds on page S-8 of this prospectus supplement.
Risk Factors	You should read the Risk Factors section of this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, and in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus for a discussion of factors to consider before deciding to purchase shares of our common stock.
Nasdaq Capital Market symbol	MNTX
The number of shares of common stock shown above to be outstanding after this offering is based on 16,138,163 shares of common stock outstanding as of September 30, 2016, and excludes:	

267,577 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of restricted stock units outstanding as of September 30, 2016;

549,451 shares of common stock issuable upon the conversion of a subordinated convertible debenture outstanding as of September 30, 2016, having a conversion price of \$13.65 per share; and

Edgar Filing: Manitex International, Inc. - Form 424B5

1,000,000 shares of common stock issuable upon the conversion of a subordinated convertible debenture outstanding as of September 30, 2016, having an initial conversion price of \$15.00 per share.

Unless otherwise stated, all information contained in this prospectus supplement reflects an assumed public offering price of \$9.27 per share, which was the last reported sale price of our common stock on The NASDAQ Capital Market on January 20, 2017.

S-4

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the risks described below, the risks described under Risk Factors in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, as well as all of the other information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including our financial statements and related notes, before investing in our common stock. We expect to update these Risk Factors from time to time in the periodic and current reports we file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus supplement. These updated Risk Factors will be incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement. If any of the possible events described in those documents actually occur, our business, business prospects, cash flow, results of operations or financial condition could be harmed. In this case, the trading price of our common stock could decline, and you might lose all or part of your investment in our common stock. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also impair our operations.

Risks Related to the Offering

Our management will have broad discretion over the use of net proceeds from this offering and may not use the proceeds effectively.

Our management will have broad discretion in the use of the net proceeds, including for any of the purposes described in the section entitled Use of Proceeds, and you will not have the opportunity as part of your investment decision to assess whether the net proceeds are being used appropriately. Because of the number and variability of factors that will determine our use of the net proceeds from this offering, their ultimate use may vary substantially from their currently intended use. The failure of our management to use these funds effectively could harm our business.

You may experience substantial dilution in the net tangible book value per share of the common stock you purchase, and you may experience future dilution as a result of future equity offerings.

The offering price per share in this offering may exceed the net tangible book value per share of our common stock. Assuming that an aggregate of 2,157,497 shares of our common stock are sold pursuant to this prospectus at a price of \$9.27 per share, which was the last reported sale price of our common stock on the Nasdaq Capital Market on January 20, 2017, we would receive aggregate gross proceeds of \$20 million. After deducting commissions and estimated aggregate offering expenses payable by us, you would experience immediate dilution of \$3.31 per share, representing a difference between our as adjusted net tangible book value per share as of September 30, 2016 after giving effect to this offering and the assumed offering price.

In addition, in order to raise additional capital, we may in the future offer additional shares of our common stock or other securities convertible into or exchangeable for our common stock at prices that may not be the same as the price per share in this offering. We may sell shares or other securities in any other offering at a price per share that is less than the price per share paid by investors in this offering, and investors purchasing shares or other securities in the future could have rights superior to existing stockholders. The price per share at which we sell additional shares of our common stock, or securities convertible or exchangeable into common stock, in future transactions may be higher or lower than the price per share paid by investors in this offering.

Because we will not declare cash dividends on our shares of common stock in the foreseeable future, stockholders must rely on appreciation of the value of our common stock for any return on their investment.

We have never declared or paid cash dividends on our common stock. We currently anticipate that we will retain future earnings for the development, operation and expansion of our business and will not declare or pay any cash dividends in the foreseeable future. As a result, only appreciation of the price of our common stock, if any, will provide a return to investors in this offering.

S-5

Table of Contents

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus supplement contains forward-looking statements that are intended to be forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. These statements relate to, among other things, our expectations, beliefs, intentions, future strategies, future events or future financial performance, and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause our actual results, levels of activity, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements include, without limitation: (1) projections of revenue, earnings, capital structure and other financial items, (2) statements of our plans and objectives, (3) statements regarding the capabilities and capacities of our business operations, (4) statements of expected future economic conditions and the effect on us and on our customers, (5) expected benefits of our cost reduction measures, and (6) assumptions underlying statements regarding us or our business. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terminology such as may, should, could, expects, plans, intends, anticipates, believes, estimates, predicts, potential or continue or the negative or other comparable terminology. Although we believe that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, we cannot guarantee future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements. These statements are only predictions. Our actual results may differ materially from information contained in these forward looking-statements for many reasons, including, without limitation, those described below and in our 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015, in the section entitled Item 1A. Risk Factors.

- (1) Substantial deterioration in economic conditions, especially in the United States and Europe;
- (2) our customers' diminished liquidity and credit availability;
- (3) difficulties in implementing new systems, integrating acquired businesses, managing anticipated growth, and responding to technological change;
- (4) our ability to negotiate extensions of our credit agreements and to obtain additional debt or equity financing when needed;
- (5) our level of indebtedness and our ability to meet financial covenants required by our debt agreements;
- (6) increases in interest rates;
- (7) government spending, fluctuations in the construction industry, and capital expenditures in the oil and gas industry;
- (8) the performance of our competitors;

- (9) shortages in supplies and raw materials or the increase in costs of materials;
- (10) the cyclical nature of the markets we operate in;
- (11) product liability claims, intellectual property claims, and other liabilities;
- (12) the volatility of our stock price;
- (13) future sales of our common stock;

S-6

Table of Contents

- (14) the willingness of our stockholders and directors to approve mergers, acquisitions, and other business transactions;
- (15) currency transactions (foreign exchange) risks and the risks related to forward currency contracts;
- (16) certain provisions of the Michigan Business Corporation Act and our Articles of Incorporation, as amended, Amended and Restated Bylaws, and our Preferred Stock Purchase Rights may discourage or prevent a change in control of Manitex;
- (17) a substantial portion of our revenues are attributed to limited number of customers which may decrease or cease purchasing any time;
- (18) a disruption or breach in our information technology systems;
- (19) the carrying value of our goodwill and other indefinite lived intangible assets could become impaired; and
- (20) other factors.

The risks described above and in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015, are not the only risks facing us. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently deem to be immaterial also may materially adversely affect our business, financial condition or operating results. If any of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or if our underlying assumptions prove to be incorrect, actual results may vary significantly from what we projected. We do not undertake, and expressly disclaim, any obligation to update this forward-looking information, except as required under applicable law.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

The amount of proceeds from this offering will depend upon the number of shares of our common stock sold and the market price at which they are sold. There can be no assurance that we will be able to sell any shares under or fully utilize the sales agreement with Cantor as a source of financing. Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, the net proceeds from the sale of securities offered by this prospectus supplement will be used for general corporate purposes.

S-8

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We have entered into a Controlled Equity OfferingSM sales agreement with Cantor Fitzgerald & Co., or Cantor, under which we may issue and sell shares of our common stock having an aggregate gross sales price of up to \$20,000,000 from time to time through Cantor acting as agent. The sales agreement has been filed as an exhibit to a current report on Form 8-K under the Exchange Act and incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement.

Upon delivery of a placement notice and subject to the terms and conditions of the sales agreement, Cantor may sell our common stock by any method permitted by law deemed to be an at the market offering as defined in Rule 415(a)(4) promulgated under the Securities Act, including sales made directly on or through The NASDAQ Capital Market or on any other existing trading market for our common stock. We may instruct Cantor not to sell common stock if the sales cannot be effected at or above the price designated by us from time to time. We or Cantor may suspend the offering of common stock upon notice and subject to other conditions.

We will pay Cantor commissions, in cash, for its services in acting as agent in the sale of our common stock. Cantor will be entitled to compensation at a fixed commission rate of 3.0% of the aggregate gross sales price per share sold. Because there is no minimum offering amount required as a condition to close this offering, the actual total public offering amount, commissions and proceeds to us, if any, are not determinable at this time. We have also agreed to reimburse Cantor for certain specified expenses, including the fees and disbursements of its legal counsel, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000. We estimate that the total expenses for the offering, excluding compensation and reimbursements payable to Cantor under the terms of the sales agreement, will be approximately \$100,000.

Settlement for sales of common stock will occur on the third business day following the date on which any sales are made, or on some other date that is agreed upon by us and Cantor in connection with a particular transaction, in return for payment of the net proceeds to us. Sales of our common stock as contemplated in this prospectus supplement will be settled through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company or by such other means as we and Cantor may agree upon. There is no arrangement for funds to be received in an escrow, trust or similar arrangement.

Cantor will use its commercially reasonable efforts, consistent with its sales and trading practices, to solicit offers to purchase the common stock shares under the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the sales agreement. In connection with the sale of the common stock on our behalf, Cantor will be deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act and the compensation of Cantor will be deemed to be underwriting commissions or discounts. We have agreed to provide indemnification and contribution to Cantor against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

The offering of our common stock pursuant to the sales agreement will terminate upon the termination of the sales agreement as permitted therein. We and Cantor may each terminate the sales agreement at any time upon 10 days prior notice.

Cantor and its affiliates may in the future provide various investment banking, commercial banking and other financial services for us and our affiliates, for which services they may in the future receive customary fees. To the extent required by Regulation M, Cantor will not engage in any market making activities involving our common stock while the offering is ongoing under this prospectus supplement.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in electronic format may be made available on a website maintained by Cantor and Cantor may distribute this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus electronically.

S-9

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the common stock offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Bowen, Radabaugh & Milton, P.C., Troy, Michigan. Cantor Fitzgerald & Co. is being represented in connection with this offering by Cooley LLP, New York, New York.

EXPERTS

The financial statements incorporated in this prospectus by reference from our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 have been audited by UHY LLP, our independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report, which is incorporated herein by reference and have been so incorporated in reliance upon the report of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly, and special reports and proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document that we file at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the Public Reference Room. Our SEC filings are also available on the SEC's web site at <http://www.sec.gov>. Copies of certain information filed by us with the SEC are also available on our web site at <http://www.manitexinternational.com>. We have not incorporated by reference into this prospectus the information on our website, and you should not consider it to be a part of this document.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus constitute part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the SEC under the Securities Act with respect to the securities offered hereby. As permitted by the rules and regulations of the SEC, this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus omit some of the information, exhibits and undertakings included in the registration statement. You may read and copy the information omitted from this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus but contained in the registration statement, as well as the periodic reports and other information we file with the SEC, at the public reference facilities maintained by the SEC in Washington, D.C.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus summarize provisions of contracts and other documents that we refer you to. Since those summaries are not complete and this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus do not contain all the information that you may find important, you should review the full text of those documents. You should rely only on the information contained and incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

Table of Contents

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with them. This means that we can disclose important information to you in this prospectus supplement by referring you to those documents. These incorporated documents contain important business and financial information about us that is not included in or delivered with this prospectus supplement. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus supplement, and later information filed with the SEC will update and supersede this information.

We incorporate by reference the following documents, which we have previously filed with the SEC:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015;

our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2016, June 30, 2016 and September 30, 2016;

our Current Reports on Form 8-K (or Form 8-K/A, as appropriate) filed on January 4, 2016, March 17, 2016, June 3, 2016, June 6, 2016, July 25, 2016, October 3, 2016, December 20, 2016, December 28, 2016, December 29, 2016, December 30, 2016 and January 23, 2017 (except, in any such case, the portions furnished pursuant to Item 2.02, Item 7.01 or otherwise);

the description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed on January 4, 2005 under the caption Description of Registrant's Securities to be Registered and any amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description; and

the description of our preferred share purchase rights contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed on October 21, 2008 and any amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description.

We also incorporate by reference any future filings under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act from the date hereof and prior to the termination of the offering, except for the filings, or portions thereof, that are furnished rather than filed with the SEC.

We will provide without charge to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom a prospectus is delivered, on written or oral request of that person, a copy of any or all of the documents we are incorporating by reference into this prospectus, other than exhibits to those documents unless such exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference into those documents. Such written requests should be addressed to:

Manitex International, Inc.

9725 Industrial Drive

Bridgeview, Illinois 60455

Attention: Chief Financial Officer

You may direct telephone requests to David H. Gransee, our Chief Financial Officer, at (708) 430-7500.

S-11

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

\$75,000,000

MANITEX INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Debt Securities

Warrants

Units

Purchase Rights

From time to time, we may sell any of the securities listed above. We will provide the specific terms of these securities in one or more supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus, the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement carefully before making your investment decision. The applicable prospectus supplement will contain information, where applicable, as to any other listing on the NASDAQ Capital Market or any securities exchange or market of the securities covered by the prospectus supplement. This prospectus may not be used to offer or sell any securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

We may sell securities directly to you or through underwriters, dealers or agents. More information about the way we will distribute the securities is under the heading **Plan of Distribution**. Information about the underwriters, dealers or agents who will participate in any particular sale of securities will be in the prospectus supplement relating to that series of securities.

Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol **MNTX**.

Investing in our securities involves significant risks, which we describe in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 and in other documents that we subsequently file with the Securities and Exchange Commission, and which we will describe in supplements to this prospectus. See also **Risk Factors beginning at page 4 of this prospectus to read about certain factors you should consider before deciding**

whether to invest our securities.

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 October 3, 2016

Table of Contents**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	Page
<u>ABOUT MANITEX INTERNATIONAL, INC.</u>	1
<u>INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE</u>	3
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	3
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	4
<u>SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	5
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	7
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u>	7
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u>	8
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES</u>	11
<u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u>	20
<u>DESCRIPTION OF UNITS</u>	21
<u>DESCRIPTION OF PURCHASE RIGHTS</u>	21
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	22
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	24
<u>EXPERTS</u>	24

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf process, we may, from time to time, sell common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, warrants, units or purchase rights in one or more offerings up to a total dollar amount of \$75,000,000. The preferred stock, warrants and units may be convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for common or preferred stock. In addition, a dividend distribution of one preferred share purchase right attaches to each outstanding share of our common stock. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell any securities under this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of those securities.

This prospectus does not contain all of the information included in the registration statement. For a more complete understanding of our business and the offered securities, you should refer to the registration statement, including its exhibits. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with the additional information described under Where You Can Find More Information before buying securities in any offering.

Unless otherwise indicated or unless the context otherwise requires, all references in this prospectus to we, us, Manitex, the Company or similar references mean Manitex International, Inc. and our subsidiaries.

You should rely only on the information contained, or incorporated by reference, in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or any other offering material that we authorize. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not making offers to sell the securities in any jurisdiction in which such an offer or solicitation is not authorized or in which the person making such offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to

anyone to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation. This prospectus may not be used to consummate a sale of our securities unless it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

The information contained in this prospectus or a prospectus supplement or amendment or any other offering material that we authorize, or incorporated herein or therein by reference, is accurate only as of the date of such documents, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus or prospectus supplement or amendment or any other offering material that we authorize, as applicable, or of any sale of the securities.

Table of Contents

ABOUT MANITEX INTERNATIONAL, INC.

We are a leading provider of engineered lifting solutions, including cranes, reach stackers and associated container handling equipment, rough terrain forklifts, indoor electric forklifts and special mission oriented vehicles, including parts support. We operate in three business segments: the Lifting Equipment segment, the ASV segment and the Equipment Distribution segment. Our predecessor company was formed in 1993 and was purchased in 2003 by Veri-Tek International, Corp., which changed its name to Manitex International, Inc. in 2008. Our principal executive offices are located at 9725 Industrial Drive, Bridgeview, Illinois, and our telephone number is (708) 430-7500. We maintain a website at www.manitexinternational.com. The information contained on our website or that can be accessed through our website is not part of this prospectus or any prospectus supplement we may use in connection herewith.

Lifting Equipment Segment

We are a leading provider of engineered lifting solutions. We design, manufacture and distribute a diverse group of products that serve different functions and are used in a variety of industries. Through our Manitex, Inc. subsidiary we market a comprehensive line of boom trucks, truck cranes and sign cranes. Our boom trucks and crane products are primarily used for industrial projects, energy exploration and infrastructure development, including, roads, bridges and commercial construction. Badger Equipment Company (Badger) is a manufacturer of specialized rough terrain cranes and material handling products. Badger primarily serves the needs of the construction, municipality and railroad industries. PM Group S.p.A. is a leading Italian manufacturer of truck mounted hydraulic knuckle boom cranes with a 50-year history of technology and innovation, and a product range spanning more than 50 models. Manitex Liftking ULC (Manitex Liftking) sells a complete line of rough terrain forklifts, a line of stand-up electric forklifts, cushioned tired forklifts with lifting capacities from 18 thousand to 40 thousand pounds and special mission oriented vehicles, as well as other specialized carriers, heavy material handling transporters and steel mill equipment. Manitex Liftking s rough terrain forklifts are used in both commercial and military applications. CVS Ferrari, srl (CVS) designs and manufactures a range of reach stackers and associated lifting equipment for the global container handling market, that are sold through a broad dealer network. The Valla product line offers a full range of precision pick and carry cranes from 2 to 90 tons, using electric, diesel, and hybrid power options. Its cranes offer wheeled or tracked and fixed or swing boom configurations, with special applications designed specifically to meet the needs of its customers. Manitex Sabre, Inc. (Sabre) manufactures a comprehensive line of specialized mobile tanks for liquid and solid storage and containment solutions with capacities from 8,000 to 21,000 gallons. Its mobile tanks are sold to specialized independent tank rental companies and through the Company s existing dealer network. The tanks are used in a variety of end markets such as petrochemical, waste management and oil and gas drilling.

ASV Segment

A.S.V., LLC (ASV) manufactures a line of high quality compact track and skid steer loaders. The products are used in the site clearing, general construction, forestry, golf course maintenance and landscaping industries, with general construction being the largest market. The ASV products are distributed through the Terex distribution channels as well as through the Company and other independent dealers. We have a 51% ownership interest in ASV.

Equipment Distribution Segment

The Equipment Distribution segment consists of two of the Company s subsidiaries, Crane and Machinery, Inc. (C&M) and Crane and Machinery Leasing, Inc. (C&M Leasing). C&M is a distributor of Terex rough terrain and truck cranes products as well as Manitex s own products. C&M offers equipment repair services in the Chicago area and supplies repair parts for a wide variety of medium to heavy duty construction equipment both domestically and

internationally. C&M also markets previously-owned construction and heavy equipment and trailers both domestically and internationally. C&M purchases previously owned equipment of various ages and conditions and often refurbishes the equipment before resale.

Table of Contents

C&M Leasing rents equipment manufactured by the Company as well limited amount of equipment manufactures third parties. C&M Leasing has recently expanded its rental fleet substantially. Previously, the Company's rental operations were centered in the Chicago region. With the expansion of the rental fleet, C&M Leasing is expanding its rental territory with a goal of having national presence.

Table of Contents

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with them. This means that we can disclose important information to you in this prospectus by referring you to those documents. These incorporated documents contain important business and financial information about us that is not included in or delivered with this prospectus. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, and later information filed with the SEC will update and supersede this information.

We incorporate by reference the following documents, which we have previously filed with the SEC:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015;

our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2016 and June 30, 2016;

our Current Reports on Form 8-K (or Form 8-K/A, as appropriate) filed on January 4, 2016, March 17, 2016, June 3, 2016, June 6, 2016 and July 25, 2016;

the description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed on January 4, 2005 under the caption Description of Registrant's Securities to be Registered and any amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description; and

the description of our preferred share purchase rights contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed on October 21, 2008 and any amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description.

We also incorporate by reference any future filings under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act from the date hereof and prior to the termination of the offering, except for the filings, or portions thereof, that are furnished rather than filed with the SEC.

We will provide without charge to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom a prospectus is delivered, on written or oral request of that person, a copy of any or all of the documents we are incorporating by reference into this prospectus, other than exhibits to those documents unless such exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference into those documents. Such written requests should be addressed to:

Manitex International, Inc.

9725 Industrial Drive

Bridgeview, Illinois 60455

Attention: Chief Financial Officer

You may direct telephone requests to David H. Gransee, our Chief Financial Officer, at (708) 430-7500.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly, and special reports and proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document that we file at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the Public Reference Room. Our SEC filings are also available on the SEC's web site at <http://www.sec.gov>. Copies of certain information filed by us with the SEC are also available on our web site at <http://www.manitexinternational.com>. We have not incorporated by reference into this prospectus the information on our website, and you should not consider it to be a part of this document.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves risk. Before making an investment decision, you should carefully consider the risks described under "Risk Factors" in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K filed for the period ending December 31, 2015 and any updates in our subsequently filed Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q or Current Reports on Form 8-K, together with all other information appearing in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement, in light of your particular investment objectives and financial circumstances. These risks could materially and adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition and could result in a partial or complete loss of your investment.

Table of Contents

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement include and incorporate by reference forward-looking statements within the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. All statements contained in this prospectus, other than statements that are purely historical, are forward-looking statements and are based upon management's present expectations, objectives, anticipations, plans, hopes, beliefs, intentions or strategies regarding the future. We use words such as anticipate, estimate, plan, project, continuing, ongoing, expect, intend, may, will, should, could, and similar expressions to identify forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements in this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement or incorporated documents include, without limitation: (1) projections of revenue, earnings, capital structure and other financial items, (2) statements of our plans and objectives, (3) statements regarding the capabilities and capacities of our business operations, (4) statements of expected future economic conditions and the effect on us and on our customers, (5) expected benefits of our cost reduction measures, and (6) assumptions underlying statements regarding us or our business. Our actual results may differ from information contained in these forward looking-statements for many reasons, including those described below and in the section entitled Risk Factors :

- (1) Substantial deterioration in economic conditions, especially in the United States and Europe;
- (2) our customers' diminished liquidity and credit availability;
- (3) difficulties in implementing new systems, integrating acquired businesses, managing anticipated growth, and responding to technological change;
- (4) our ability to negotiate extensions of our credit agreements and to obtain additional debt or equity financing when needed;
- (5) our level of indebtedness and our ability to meet financial covenants required by our debt agreements;
- (6) increases in interest rates;
- (7) government spending, fluctuations in the construction industry, and capital expenditures in the oil and gas industry;
- (8) the performance of our competitors;
- (9) shortages in supplies and raw materials or the increase in costs of materials;

- (10) the cyclical nature of the markets we operate in;
- (11) product liability claims, intellectual property claims, and other liabilities;
- (12) the volatility of our stock price;
- (13) future sales of our common stock;
- (14) the willingness of our stockholders and directors to approve mergers, acquisitions, and other business transactions;
- (15) currency transactions (foreign exchange) risks and the risks related to forward currency contracts;
- (16) certain provisions of the Michigan Business Corporation Act and the Company's Articles of Incorporation, as amended, Amended and Restated Bylaws, and the Company's Preferred Stock Purchase Rights may discourage or prevent a change in control of the Company;
- (17) a substantial portion of our revenues are attributed to limited number of customers which may decrease or cease purchasing any time;
- (18) a disruption or breach in our information technology systems;

Table of Contents

(19) the carrying value of our goodwill and other indefinite lived intangible assets could become impaired; and

(20) other factors.

Other factors include those discussed under the caption Risk Factors from time to time in our filings with the SEC. We undertake no duty to update these forward-looking statements after the date of this prospectus, even though our situation may change in the future. We qualify all of our forward-looking statements by these cautionary statements.

Table of Contents**USE OF PROCEEDS**

Unless indicated otherwise in any applicable prospectus supplement, we expect to use the net proceeds from the sale of our securities for our operations and for other general corporate purposes, including acquisitions, repayment or refinancing of borrowings, working capital, capital expenditures and investments. Additional information on the use of net proceeds from the sale of securities that we may offer from time to time by this prospectus may be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to a particular offering.

Pending any specific application, we may initially invest funds in short-term marketable securities.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The ratio of earnings to fixed charges presented below should be read together with the consolidated financial statements and the notes accompanying them and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations included in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2016 and our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015, incorporated by reference into this prospectus. For purposes of the computation of the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, earnings consist of earnings from continuing operations before income taxes plus fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest expense plus the interest component of lease rental expense.

	Year Ended December 31,					Six Months Ended June 30, 2016
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	1.39x	4.44x	4.82x	3.36x	(0.33)x	(0.10)x

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

The following information describes our capital stock and provisions of our Articles of Incorporation, as amended, and our Amended and Restated Bylaws, as amended. This description is only a summary and does not purport to be complete. For information on how you can obtain those documents, see [Where You Can Find More Information](#).

General

As of the date of this prospectus, our authorized capital stock consists of 25,000,000 shares of common stock, no par value per share and 150,000 shares of preferred stock, no par value per share. As of August 31, 2016, there were 16,126,106 shares of our common stock issued and outstanding and no shares of our preferred stock issued and outstanding. Our common stock currently trades on the NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol **MNTX**.

Common Stock

Holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote per share on all matters to be voted upon by shareholders. In accordance with Michigan law, the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares cast at a duly held meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the shareholders. The presence at the meeting, by person or by proxy, of the holders of record of a majority of shares issued and outstanding and entitled to vote will constitute a quorum for transacting business.

Shares of our common stock have no preemptive rights, no redemption or sinking fund provisions, and are not liable for further call or assessment. The holders of such common stock are entitled to receive dividends when and as declared by our board of directors out of funds legally available for dividends, subject to the prior rights or preferences applicable to any preferred stock then outstanding. The Company has not declared or paid any cash dividends on its common stock and the Company does not presently intend to pay any cash dividends in the foreseeable future.

If we are liquidated, our creditors and any holders of our preferred stock with preferential liquidation rights will be paid before any distribution to holders of common stock. The holders of common stock would be entitled to receive a pro rata distribution per share of any excess amount. 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 which we may designate and issue in the future.

Preferred Stock

Our Articles of Incorporation empower our board of directors to issue up to 150,000 shares of preferred stock from time to time in one or more series. As of the date of this prospectus, there were no shares of preferred stock issued and outstanding.

We may issue one or more series of preferred stock, with designations, powers, preferences and other rights and qualifications, limitations or restrictions as may be approved by our board of directors, including:

the distinctive designation of each series and the number of shares that will constitute the series;

the voting rights, if any, of shares of the series and the terms and conditions of the voting rights;

the dividend rate on the shares of the series, the dates on which dividends are payable, any restriction, limitation or condition upon the payment of dividends, whether dividends will be cumulative, and the dates from and after which dividends shall accumulate;

the prices at which, and the terms and conditions on which, the shares of the series may be redeemed, if the shares are redeemable;

the terms and conditions of a sinking or purchase fund for the purchase or redemption of shares of the series, if such a fund is provided;

Table of Contents

any preferential amount payable upon the shares of the series in the event of the liquidation, dissolution or winding up of, or upon the distribution of any of our assets; and

the prices or rates of conversion or exchange at which, and the terms and conditions on which, the shares of the series may be converted or exchanged into other securities, if the shares are convertible or exchangeable. The particular terms of any series of preferred stock, and the transfer agent and registrar for that series, will be described in a prospectus supplement. All preferred stock offered, when issued, will be fully paid and nonassessable. Any material United States federal income tax consequences and other special considerations with respect to any preferred stock offered under this prospectus will also be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Preferred Share Purchase Rights

For each share of our common stock, there is one preferred share purchase right (a Right). Each Right entitles the registered holder to purchase from us one one-hundredth of a share of our Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock, no par value (Preferred Shares), at a price of \$35.00 per one one-hundredth of a Preferred Share, subject to adjustment (the Purchase Price). As long as the Rights are attached to the common stock, we will issue one Right for each share of common stock, so that all such shares will have attached Rights. We initially reserved 125,000 Preferred Shares for issuance upon exercise of the Rights. The description below is only a summary of the Rights Agreement, dated October 17, 2008 (the Rights Agreement) by and between us and the rights agent, and does not purport to be complete. For information on how you can obtain a complete copy of the Rights Agreement, see [Where You Can Find More Information](#).

Until the earlier to occur of (i) the Shares Acquisition Date, which is the date 10 days following a public announcement that a person or group of affiliated or associated persons (other than us, any of our subsidiaries or any of our employee benefit plans or certain holders of our common stock as of the date of the Rights Agreement) has acquired beneficial ownership of 15% (or, in the case of certain holders, 30%) or more of outstanding shares of common stock (such person, an Acquiring Person), or (ii) 10 business days (or such later date as may be determined by action of our board of directors prior to such time as any person becomes an Acquiring Person) following the commencement of, or announcement of an intention to make, a tender offer or exchange offer the consummation of which would result in the beneficial ownership by a person or group (other than us, any of our subsidiaries or any of our employee benefit plans) of 15% (or, in the case of certain holders, 30%) or more of outstanding shares of common stock (the earlier of such dates being called the Distribution Date), the Rights will not be exercisable, will be evidenced by the certificates for shares of common stock, and are transferable only together with the shares of common stock. As soon as practicable following the Distribution Date, separate certificates evidencing the Rights (Right Certificates) will be mailed to holders of record of the shares of common stock as of the close of business on the Distribution Date and such separate Right Certificates alone will evidence the Rights.

The Rights will expire on October 17, 2018 (the Final Expiration Date), unless we redeem or exchange the Rights earlier, in each case as described below.

The Purchase Price payable, and the number of Preferred Shares or other securities or property issuable, upon exercise of the Rights are subject to adjustment from time to time to prevent dilution (i) in the event of a stock dividend on, or a subdivision, combination or reclassification of, the Preferred Shares, (ii) upon the grant to holders of the Preferred Shares of certain rights or warrants to subscribe for or purchase Preferred Shares at a price, or securities convertible into Preferred Shares with a conversion price, less than the then current market price of the Preferred Shares or (iii) upon the distribution to holders of the Preferred Shares of evidences of indebtedness or assets (excluding regular annual cash dividends or dividends payable in Preferred Shares) or of subscription rights or warrants (other than those

referred to above).

Table of Contents

The number of outstanding Rights and the number of one one-hundredths of a Preferred Share issuable upon exercise of each Right are also subject to adjustment in the event of a stock split of the common stock or a stock dividend on the common stock payable in common stock or subdivisions, consolidations or combinations of the common stock occurring, in any such case, prior to the Distribution Date.

Preferred Shares purchasable upon the exercise of Rights will not be redeemable. Each Preferred Share will be entitled to a minimum preferential quarterly dividend payment of \$1.00 per share but will be entitled to an aggregate dividend of 100 times the dividend declared per share of common stock. In the event of liquidation, the holders of the Preferred Shares will be entitled to a minimum preferential liquidation payment of \$100 per share but will be entitled to an aggregate payment of 100 times the payment made per share of common stock. Each Preferred Share will have one vote per share, voting as a separate class on all matters submitted to holders of common stock. Finally, in the event of any merger, consolidation or other transaction in which common stock are exchanged, each Preferred Share will be entitled to receive 100 times the amount received per share of common stock. These Rights are protected by customary antidilution provisions. Because of the nature of the Preferred Shares' dividend and liquidation rights, the value of the one one-hundredth interest in a Preferred Share purchasable upon exercise of each Right should approximate the value of one share of our common stock.

In the event that any person becomes an Acquiring Person (a Flip In Event), each holder of a Right (except as otherwise provided in the Rights Agreement) will thereafter have the right to receive upon exercise that number of common stock (or, in certain circumstances, cash, property or other securities of the Company or a reduction in the Purchase Price) having a market value of two times the then current Purchase Price. Notwithstanding any of the foregoing, following the occurrence of a Flip In Event all Rights that are, or (under certain circumstances specified in the Rights Agreement) were, or subsequently become beneficially owned by an Acquiring Person, related persons and transferees will be null and void.

In the event that, at any time following the Shares Acquisition Date, (i) we are acquired in a merger or other business combination transaction or (ii) 50% or more of our consolidated assets or earning power are sold (the events described in clauses (i) and (ii) are herein referred to as Flip-Over Events), proper provision will be made so that each holder of a Right (except as otherwise provided in the Rights Agreement) will thereafter have the right to receive, upon the exercise thereof at the then current Purchase Price, that number of shares of common stock of the acquiring company which at the time of such transaction will have a market value of two times the then current Purchase Price.

With certain exceptions, no adjustment in the Purchase Price will be required until cumulative adjustments require an adjustment of at least 1% in such Purchase Price.

At any time after a person becomes an Acquiring Person and prior to the acquisition by such Acquiring Person of 50% or more of the outstanding common stock, our board of directors may exchange the Rights (other than Rights owned by any Acquiring Person which have become void), in whole or in part, at an exchange ratio of one share of common stock, or one one-hundredth of a Preferred Share (or of a share of a class or series of our preferred stock having equivalent rights, preferences and privileges), per Right (subject to adjustment).

At any time prior to a person becoming an Acquiring Person, our board of directors may redeem the Rights in whole, but not in part, at a price of \$.001 per Right (the Redemption Price). The redemption of the Rights may be made effective at such time, on such basis and with such conditions as our board of directors in its sole discretion may establish. Immediately upon any redemption of the Rights, the right to exercise the Rights will terminate and the only right of the holders of Rights will be to receive the Redemption Price.

Table of Contents

Other than amendments that would change the Redemption Price, the Purchase Price or the Final Expiration Date of the Rights, the terms of the Rights may be amended by our board of directors without the consent of the holders of the Rights, including an amendment to lower the threshold for exercisability of the Rights from 15% to not less than 10%, with appropriate exceptions for any person then beneficially owning a percentage of the number of common stock then outstanding equal to or in excess of the new threshold, except that from and after such time as any person becomes an Acquiring Person no such amendment may adversely affect the interests of the holders of the Rights.

Until a Right is exercised, the holder thereof, as such, will have no rights as a shareholder of the Company, including, without limitation, the right to vote or to receive dividends.

The Rights have certain anti-takeover effects. The Rights will cause substantial dilution to a person or group that attempts to acquire us without conditioning the offer on redemption of the Rights or on a substantial number of Rights being acquired. The Rights should not interfere with any merger or other business combination approved by our board of directors since the board of directors may, at its option, at any time until a person becomes an Acquiring Person redeem all but not less than all of the then-outstanding Rights at \$.001 per Right.

Anti-Takeover Provisions

Provisions of our Articles of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws, Michigan law, and the Rights Agreement could make it more difficult for a third party to acquire the Company, even if doing so would be perceived to be beneficial to you. These provisions could discourage potential takeover attempts and could adversely affect the market price of our shares. Because of these provisions, you might not be able to receive a premium on your investment. These provisions:

authorize our board of directors, without requiring shareholder consent, to issue shares of preferred stock and to determine the relative rights, preferences, priorities, privileges, restrictions and limitations of such preferred stock, which could increase the number of outstanding shares and prevent a takeover attempt;

limit our shareholders' ability to call a special meeting of our shareholders;

limit our shareholders' ability to amend, alter or repeal our bylaws; and

restrict business combinations with certain shareholders.

The provisions described above could prevent, delay or defer a change in control of the Company or its management. See also Preferred Share Purchase Rights and Description of Purchase Rights for details regarding the purchase rights that attach to each share of our common stock and other purchase rights that may attach to our securities in the future.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

We may sell the securities being offered pursuant to this prospectus directly to purchasers, to or through underwriters, through dealers or agents, or through a combination of such methods. The prospectus supplement with respect to the securities being offered will set forth the terms of the offering of those securities, including the names of the underwriters, dealers or agents, if any, the purchase price, the net proceeds to us, any underwriting discounts and other

items constituting underwriters' compensation, the initial public offering price, any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers and any securities exchanges on which such securities may be listed.

Table of Contents

General

The debt securities that we may issue will constitute debentures, notes, bonds or other evidences of indebtedness of Manitex, to be issued in one or more series, which may include senior debt securities, subordinated debt securities and senior subordinated debt securities. The particular terms of any series of debt securities we offer, including the extent to which the general terms set forth below may be applicable to a particular series, will be described in a prospectus supplement relating to such series.

Debt securities that we may issue will be issued under an indenture between us and a trustee qualified to act as such under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. We have filed the form of the indenture as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. When we refer to the indenture in this prospectus, we are referring to the indenture under which debt securities are issued as supplemented by any supplemental indenture applicable to such debt securities. We will provide the name of the trustee in any prospectus supplement related to the issuance of debt securities, and we will also provide certain other information related to the trustee, including describing any relationship we have with the trustee, in such prospectus supplement.

THE FOLLOWING DESCRIPTION IS A SUMMARY OF THE MATERIAL PROVISIONS OF THE INDENTURE. IT DOES NOT RESTATE THE INDENTURE IN ITS ENTIRETY. THE INDENTURE IS GOVERNED BY THE TRUST INDENTURE ACT OF 1939. THE TERMS OF THE DEBT SECURITIES INCLUDE THOSE STATED IN THE INDENTURE AND THOSE MADE PART OF THE INDENTURE BY REFERENCE TO THE TRUST INDENTURE ACT. WE URGE YOU TO READ THE INDENTURE BECAUSE IT, AND NOT THIS DESCRIPTION, DEFINES YOUR RIGHTS AS A HOLDER OF THE DEBT SECURITIES.

Information You Will Find In The Prospectus Supplement

The indenture provides that we may issue debt securities from time to time in one or more series and that we may denominate the debt securities and make them payable in foreign currencies. The indenture does not limit the aggregate principal amount of debt securities that can be issued thereunder. The prospectus supplement for a series of debt securities will provide information relating to the terms of the series of debt securities being offered, which may include:

the title and denominations of the debt securities of the series;

any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of the series;

the date or dates on which the principal and premium, if any, with respect to the debt securities of the series are payable or the method of determination thereof;

the rate or rates, which may be fixed or variable, at which the debt securities of the series shall bear interest, if any, or the method of calculating and/or resetting such rate or rates of interest;

the dates from which such interest shall accrue or the method by which such dates shall be determined and the duration of the extensions and the basis upon which interest shall be calculated;

the interest payment dates for the series of debt securities or the method by which such dates will be determined, the terms of any deferral of interest and any right of ours to extend the interest payments periods;

the place or places where the principal and interest on the series of debt securities will be payable;

the terms and conditions upon which debt securities of the series may be redeemed, in whole or in part, at our option or otherwise;

our obligation, if any, to redeem, purchase, or repay debt securities of the series pursuant to any sinking fund or other specified event or at the option of the holders and the terms of any such redemption, purchase, or repayment;

the terms, if any, upon which the debt securities of the series may be convertible into or exchanged for other securities, including, among other things, the initial conversion or exchange price or rate and the conversion or exchange period;

Table of Contents

if the amount of principal, premium, if any, or interest with respect to the debt securities of the series may be determined with reference to an index or formula, the manner in which such amounts will be determined;

if any payments on the debt securities of the series are to be made in a currency or currencies (or by reference to an index or formula) other than that in which such securities are denominated or designated to be payable, the currency or currencies (or index or formula) in which such payments are to be made and the terms and conditions of such payments;

any changes or additions to the provisions of the indenture dealing with defeasance, including any additional covenants that may be subject to our covenant defeasance option;

the currency or currencies in which payment of the principal and premium, if any, and interest with respect to debt securities of the series will be payable, or in which the debt securities of the series shall be denominated, and the particular provisions applicable thereto in accordance with the indenture;

the portion of the principal amount of debt securities of the series which will be payable upon declaration of acceleration or provable in bankruptcy or the method by which such portion or amount shall be determined;

whether the debt securities of the series will be secured or guaranteed and, if so, on what terms;

any addition to or change in the events of default with respect to the debt securities of the series;

the identity of any trustees, authenticating or paying agents, transfer agents or registrars;

the applicability of, and any addition to or change in, the covenants currently set forth in the indenture;

the subordination, ranking or priority, if any, of the debt securities of the series and terms of the subordination;

any other terms of the debt securities of the series which are not prohibited by the indenture; and

whether securities of the series shall be issuable as registered securities or bearer securities (with or without interest coupons), and any restrictions applicable to the offering, sale or delivery of such bearer securities and the terms upon which such bearer securities of a series may be exchanged for registered securities, and vice versa.

Holders of debt securities may present debt securities for exchange in the manner, at the places, and subject to the restrictions set forth in the debt securities, the indenture, and the prospectus supplement. We will provide these

services without charge, other than any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection therewith, but subject to the limitations provided in the indenture, any board resolution establishing such debt securities and any applicable indenture supplement. Debt securities in bearer form and the coupons, if any, appertaining thereto will be transferable by delivery.

Senior Debt

We may issue senior debt securities under the indenture and any coupons that will constitute part of our senior debt. Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable indenture supplement and described in a prospectus supplement, the senior debt securities will be senior unsecured obligations, ranking equally with all of our existing and future senior unsecured debt. The senior debt securities will be senior to all of our subordinated debt and junior to any secured debt we may incur as to the assets securing such debt.

Subordinated Debt

We may issue subordinated debt securities under the indenture and any coupons that will constitute part of such subordinated debt. These subordinated debt securities will be subordinate and junior in right of payment, to the extent and in the manner set forth in the indenture and any applicable indenture supplement, to all of our senior indebtedness.

Table of Contents

If this prospectus is being delivered in connection with a series of subordinated debt securities, the accompanying prospectus supplement or the information incorporated by reference will set forth the approximate amount of senior indebtedness outstanding as of the end of the most recent fiscal quarter.

Senior Subordinated Debt

We may issue senior subordinated debt securities under the indenture and any coupons that will constitute part of our senior subordinated debt. These senior subordinated debt securities will be, to the extent and in the manner set forth in the applicable indenture supplement, subordinate and junior in right of payment to all of our senior indebtedness and senior to our other subordinated debt. See the discussions above under **Senior Debt** and **Subordinated Debt** for a more detailed explanation of our senior and subordinated indebtedness.

Interest Rate

Debt securities that bear interest will do so at a fixed rate or a floating rate. We may sell, at a discount below the stated principal amount, any debt securities which bear no interest or which bear interest at a rate that at the time of issuance is below the prevailing market rate. The relevant prospectus supplement will describe the special United States federal income tax considerations applicable to:

any discounted debt securities; and

any debt securities issued at par which are treated as having been issued at a discount for United States federal income tax purposes.

Registered Global Securities

We may issue registered debt securities of a series in the form of one or more fully registered global securities. We will deposit the registered global security with a depository or with a nominee for a depository identified in the prospectus supplement relating to such series. The global security or global securities will represent and will be in a denomination or aggregate denominations equal to the portion of the aggregate principal amount of outstanding registered debt securities of the series to be represented by the registered global security or securities. Unless it is exchanged in whole or in part for debt securities in definitive registered form, a registered global security may not be transferred, except as a whole in three cases:

by the depository for the registered global security to a nominee of the depository;

by a nominee of the depository to the depository or another nominee of the depository; and

by the depository or any nominee to a successor of the depository or a nominee of the successor.

The prospectus supplement relating to a series of debt securities will describe the specific terms of the depository arrangement concerning any portion of that series of debt securities to be represented by a registered global security. We anticipate that the following provisions will generally apply to all depository arrangements.

Upon the issuance of a registered global security, the depository will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the principal amounts of the debt securities represented by the registered global security to the accounts of persons that have accounts with the depository. These persons are referred to as participants. Any underwriters, agents or debtors participating in the distribution of debt securities represented by the registered global security will designate the accounts to be credited. Only participants or persons that hold interests through participants will be able to beneficially own interests in a registered global security. The depository for a global security will maintain records of beneficial ownership interests in a registered global security for participants. Participants or persons that hold through participants will maintain records of beneficial ownership interests in a global security for persons other than participants. These records will be the only means to transfer beneficial ownership in a registered global security.

Table of Contents

The laws of some states may require that specified purchasers of securities take physical delivery of the securities in definitive form. These laws may limit the ability of those persons to own, transfer or pledge beneficial interests in global securities.

So long as the depository, or its nominee, is the registered owner of a registered global security, the depository or its nominee will be considered the sole owner or holder of the debt securities represented by the registered global security for all purposes under the indenture. Except as set forth below, owners of beneficial interests in a registered global security:

may not have the debt securities represented by a registered global security registered in their names;

will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of debt securities represented by a registered global security in definitive form; and

will not be considered the owners or holders of debt securities represented by a registered global security under the indenture.

Accordingly, each person owning a beneficial interest in a registered global security must rely on the procedures of the depository for the registered global security and, if the person is not a participant, on the procedures of the participant through which the person owns its interests, to exercise any rights of a holder under the indenture applicable to the registered global security.

We understand that, under existing industry practices, if we request any action of holders, or if an owner of a beneficial interest in a registered global security desires to give or take any action which a holder is entitled to give or take under the indenture, the depository for the registered global security would authorize the participants holding the relevant beneficial interests to give or take the action, and the participants would authorize beneficial owners owning through the participants to give or take the action or would otherwise act upon the instructions of beneficial owners holding through them.

Payment of Interest on and Principal of Registered Global Securities

We will make principal, premium, if any, and interest payments on debt securities represented by a registered global security registered in the name of a depository or its nominee to the depository or its nominee as the registered owner of the registered global security. None of Manitex, the trustee, or any paying agent for debt securities represented by a registered global security will have any responsibility or liability for:

any aspect of the records relating to, or payments made on account of, beneficial ownership interests in such registered global security;

maintaining, supervising, or reviewing any records relating to beneficial ownership interests;

the payments to beneficial owners of the global security of amounts paid to the depository or its nominee; or

any other matter relating to the actions and practices of the depository, its nominee or any of its participants. We expect that the depository, upon receipt of any payment of principal, premium or interest in respect of the global security, will immediately credit participants' accounts with payments in amounts proportionate to their beneficial interests in the principal amount of a registered global security as shown on the depository's records. We also expect that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in a registered global security held through participants will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices. This is currently the case with the securities held for the accounts of customers registered in street name. Such payments will be the responsibility of participants.

Table of Contents

Exchange of Registered Global Securities

We may issue debt securities in definitive form in exchange for the registered global security if both of the following occur:

the depository for any debt securities represented by a registered global security is at any time unwilling or unable to continue as depository or ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act; and

we do not appoint a successor depository within 90 days.

In addition, we may, at any time, determine not to have any of the debt securities of a series represented by one or more registered global securities. In this event, we will issue debt securities of that series in definitive form in exchange for all of the registered global security or securities representing those debt securities.

Covenants by Manitex

The indenture includes covenants by us, including among other things that we will make all payments of principal, or premium, if any, and interest at the times and places required. The supplemental indenture establishing each series of debt securities may contain additional covenants, including covenants which could restrict our right to incur additional indebtedness or liens and to take certain actions with respect to our businesses and assets.

Events of Default

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the following will be events of default under the indenture with respect to each series of debt securities issued under the indenture:

failure to pay when due any interest on any debt security of that series, continued for 30 days;

failure to pay when due the principal of, or premium, if any, on, any debt security of that series;

default in the payment of any sinking fund installment with respect to any debt security of that series when due and payable;

failure to perform any other covenant or agreement of ours under the indenture or the supplemental indenture with respect to that series or the debt securities of that series, continued for 90 days after written notice to us by the trustee or holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the series to which the covenant or agreement relates;

certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or similar proceedings affecting us; and

any other event of default specified in any supplemental indenture under which such series of debt securities is issued.

Except as to certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or similar proceedings affecting us and except as provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, if any event of default shall occur and be continuing with respect to any series of debt securities under the indenture, either the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of outstanding debt securities of such series may accelerate the maturity of all debt securities of such series. Upon certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or similar proceedings affecting us, the principal, premium, if any, and interest on all debt securities of each series shall be immediately due and payable.

After any such acceleration, but before a judgment or decree based on acceleration has been obtained by the trustee, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of each affected series of debt securities may waive all defaults with respect to such series and rescind and annul such acceleration if all events of default, other than the non-payment of accelerated principal, have been cured, waived or otherwise remedied.

Table of Contents

No holder of any debt securities will have any right to institute any proceeding with respect to the indenture or for any remedy under the indenture, unless such holder shall have previously given to the trustee written notice of a continuing event of default and the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the relevant series shall have made written request and offered indemnity satisfactory to the trustee to institute such proceeding as trustee, and the trustee shall not have received from the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series a direction inconsistent with such request and shall have failed to institute such proceeding within 60 days. However, such limitations do not apply to a suit instituted by a holder of a debt security for enforcement of payment of the principal of and premium, if any, or interest on such debt security on or after the respective due dates expressed in such debt security.

Supplemental Indentures

We and the trustee may, at any time and from time to time, without prior notice to or consent of any holders of debt securities, enter into one or more indentures supplemental to the indenture, among other things:

to add guarantees to or secure any series of debt securities;

to provide for the succession of another person pursuant to the provisions of the indenture relating to consolidations, mergers and sales of assets and the assumption by such successor of our covenants, agreements, and obligations, or to otherwise comply with the provisions of the indenture relating to consolidations, mergers, and sales of assets;

to surrender any right or power conferred upon us under the indenture or to add to our covenants further covenants, restrictions, conditions or provisions for the protection of the holders of all or any series of debt securities;

to cure any ambiguity or to correct or supplement any provision contained in the indenture, in any supplemental indenture that may be defective or inconsistent with any other provision contained therein;

to modify or amend the indenture in such a manner as to permit the qualification of the indenture or any supplemental indenture under the Trust Indenture Act;

to add to or change any of the provisions of the indenture to supplement any of the provisions of the indenture in order to permit the defeasance and discharge of any series of debt securities pursuant to the indenture, so long as any such action does not adversely affect the interests of the holders of debt securities of any series in any material respect;

to add to, change, or eliminate any of the provisions of the indenture with respect to one or more series of debt securities, so long as any such addition, change or elimination shall not apply to any debt securities of any series created prior to the execution of such supplemental indenture and entitled to the benefit of such

provision;

to evidence and provide for the acceptance of appointment by a successor or separate trustee; and

to establish the form or terms of debt securities of any series and to make any change that does not adversely affect the interests of the holders of debt securities.

With the consent of the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of debt securities of each series affected by such supplemental indenture (each series voting as one class), we and the trustee may enter into one or more supplemental indentures for the purpose of adding any provisions to or changing in any manner or eliminating any of the provisions of the indenture or modifying in any manner the rights of the holders of debt securities of each such series.

Table of Contents

Notwithstanding our rights and the rights of the trustee to enter into one or more supplemental indentures with the consent of the holders of debt securities of the affected series as described above, no such supplemental indenture shall, without the consent of the holder of each outstanding debt security of the affected series, among other things:

change the final maturity of the principal of, or any installment of interest on, any debt securities;

reduce the principal amount of any debt securities or the rate of interest on any debt securities;

change the currency in which any debt securities are payable;

impair the right of the holders to conduct a proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee;

reduce the percentage in principal amount of any series of debt securities whose holders must consent to an amendment or supplemental indenture;

reduce any premium payable upon the redemption of any debt securities; or

make any change that adversely affects the relative rights of holders of subordinated debt securities with respect to senior debt securities.

Satisfaction and Discharge of the Indenture; Defeasance

Except to the extent set forth in a supplemental indenture with respect to any series of debt securities, we, at our election, may satisfy and discharge the indenture and the indenture shall generally cease to be of any further effect with respect to that series of debt securities if (i) either (a) we have delivered to the trustee for cancellation all debt securities of that series (with certain limited exceptions), or (b) all debt securities of that series not previously delivered to the trustee for cancellation shall have become due and payable, or are by their terms to become due and payable within one year or are to be called for redemption within one year, and we have deposited with the trustee the entire amount sufficient to pay at maturity or upon redemption all such debt securities; (ii) we have paid or caused to be paid all other sums payable under the indenture by us; and (iii) we have delivered to the trustee an officer's certificate and an opinion of counsel, each stating that all conditions precedent under the indenture relating to the satisfaction and discharge of the indenture relating to the satisfaction and discharge have been complied with.

In addition, we have a legal defeasance option (pursuant to which we may terminate, with respect to the debt securities of a particular series, all of our obligations under such debt securities and the indenture with respect to such debt securities) and a covenant defeasance option (pursuant to which we may terminate, with respect to the debt securities of a particular series, our obligations with respect to such debt securities under certain specified covenants contained in the indenture). If we exercise our legal defeasance option with respect to a series of debt securities, payment of such debt securities may not be accelerated because of an event of default. If we exercise our covenant defeasance option with respect to a series of debt securities, payment of such debt securities may not be accelerated because of an event of default related to the specified covenants.

We may exercise our legal defeasance option or our covenant defeasance option with respect to the debt securities of a series only if we irrevocably deposit in trust with the trustee cash or U.S. government obligations (as defined in the indenture) for the payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest with respect to such debt securities to maturity or redemption, as the case may be. In addition, to exercise either of our defeasance options, we must comply with certain other conditions, including the delivery to the trustee of an opinion of counsel to the effect that the holders of debt securities of such series will not recognize income, gain or loss for Federal income tax purposes as a result of such defeasance and will be subject to Federal income tax on the same amounts, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such defeasance had not occurred (and, in the case of legal defeasance only, such opinion of counsel must be based on a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service or other change in applicable Federal income tax law).

Table of Contents

The trustee will hold in trust the cash or U.S. government obligations deposited with it as described above and will apply the deposited cash and the proceeds from deposited U.S. government obligations to the payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest with respect to the debt securities of the defeased series.

Mergers, Consolidations and Certain Sales of Assets

We may not consolidate with or merge into any other person or entity or permit any other person or entity to consolidate with or merge into us in a transaction in which we are not the surviving entity, or transfer, lease or dispose of all or substantially all of our assets to any other person or entity unless:

the resulting, surviving or transferee entity shall be a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the United States or any state thereof and such resulting, surviving or transferee entity shall expressly assume, by supplemental indenture, executed and delivered in form satisfactory to the trustee, all of our obligations under the debt securities and the indenture;

immediately after giving effect to such transaction (and treating any indebtedness which becomes an obligation of the resulting, surviving or transferee entity as a result of such transaction as having been incurred by such entity at the time of such transaction), no default or event of default would occur or be continuing; and

we shall have delivered to the trustee an officer's certificate and an opinion of counsel, each stating that such consolidation, merger or transfer and such supplemental indenture (if any) comply with the indenture (except that such opinion of counsel need not opine as to the matters set forth in the second bullet-point above).

Governing Law

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

No Personal Liability of Directors, Officers, Employees and Stockholders

No director, officer, incorporator or stockholder of Manitex, as such, shall have any liability for any obligations of Manitex under the debt securities or the indenture or for any claim based on, in respect of, or by reason of, such obligations or their creation, solely by reason of his, her, or its status as director, officer, incorporator or stockholder of Manitex. By accepting a debt security, each holder waives and releases all such liability, but only such liability. The waiver and release are part of the consideration for issuance of the debt securities. Nevertheless, such waiver may not be effective to waive liabilities under the federal securities laws and it has been the view of the SEC that such a waiver is against public policy.

Conversion or Exchange Rights

Any debt securities offered hereby may be convertible into or exchangeable for shares of our equity or other securities. The terms and conditions of such conversion or exchange will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Such terms may include, among others, the following:

the conversion or exchange price;

the conversion or exchange period;

provisions regarding our ability or that of the holder to convert or exchange the debt securities;

events requiring adjustment to the conversion or exchange price; and

provisions affecting conversion or exchange in the event of our redemption of such debt securities.

Table of Contents

Concerning the Trustee

The indenture provides that there may be more than one trustee with respect to one or more series of debt securities. If there are different trustees for different series of debt securities, each trustee will be a trustee of a trust under a supplemental indenture separate and apart from the trust administered by any other trustee under such indenture. Except as otherwise indicated in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement, any action permitted to be taken by a trustee may be taken by the trustee only with respect to the one or more series of debt securities for which it is the trustee under an indenture. Any trustee under the indenture or a supplemental indenture may resign or be removed with respect to one or more series of debt securities.

The indenture contains limitations on the right of the trustee, should it become a creditor of Manitex, to obtain payment of claims in certain cases or to realize on certain property received in respect of any such claim as security or otherwise. If the trustee acquires an interest that conflicts with, within the meaning of the Trust Indenture Act, any duties with respect to the debt securities, the trustee is required to either resign or eliminate such conflicting interest to the extent and in the manner provided by the indenture.

Limitations on Issuance of Bearer Debt Securities

Debt securities in bearer form are subject to special U.S. tax requirements and may not be offered, sold, or delivered within the United States or its possessions or to a U.S. person, except in certain transactions permitted by U.S. tax regulations. Investors should consult the relevant prospectus supplement, in the event that bearer debt securities are issued for special procedures and restrictions that will apply to such an offering.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may issue warrants for the purchase of common stock, preferred stock, debt securities or a combination thereof. We may issue warrants independently or together with any other securities offered by any prospectus supplement and may be attached to or separate from the other offered securities. We will describe the particular terms of any warrants that we may offer under this prospectus in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement.

General

The applicable prospectus supplement relating to any particular issue of warrants will describe the terms of the warrants, including, as applicable, the following:

the title of the warrants;

the aggregate number of the warrants;

the price or prices at which the warrants will be issued;

the designation, terms and number of shares of preferred stock or common stock purchasable upon exercise of the warrants;

the designation and terms of the offered securities, if any, with which the warrants are issued and the number of the warrants issued with each offered security;

the date, if any, on and after which the warrants and the related common stock or preferred stock will be separately transferable;

the price at which each share of preferred stock or common stock purchasable upon exercise of the warrants may be purchased;

the date on which the right to exercise the warrants shall commence and the date on which that right shall expire;

Table of Contents

the provisions for changes to or adjustments in the exercise price, if any;

the terms of any rights to redeem or call, or accelerate the expiration of, the warrants;

the minimum or maximum amount of the warrants which may be exercised at any one time;

a discussion of certain federal income tax considerations; and

any other terms of the warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the warrants.

Until any warrants are exercised, holders of the warrants will not have any rights of holders of the underlying common stock or preferred stock, including any rights to receive dividends or to exercise any voting rights.

We may amend or supplement the warrant agreement for a series of warrants without the consent of the holders of the warrants issued thereunder to cure ambiguities in the warrant agreement or to effect changes that we deem necessary or desirable and which do not materially and adversely affect the interests of the holders of the warrants.

DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

As specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may issue units comprised of one or more of the other securities described in this prospectus in any combination. Each unit will be issued so that the holder of the unit is also the holder of each security included in the unit. Thus, the holder of a unit will have the rights and obligations of a holder of each included security. The prospectus supplement will describe:

the designation and terms of the units and of the securities comprising the units, including whether and under what circumstances the securities comprising the units may be held or transferred separately;

a description of the terms of any unit agreement governing the units;

a description of the provisions for the payment, settlement, transfer or exchange of the units;

a discussion of material federal income tax considerations, if applicable; and

whether the units will be issued in fully registered or global form.

The descriptions of the units and any applicable underlying security or pledge or depository arrangements in this prospectus and in any prospectus supplement are summaries of the material provisions of the applicable agreements. These descriptions do not restate those agreements in their entirety and may not contain all the information that you may find useful. We urge you to read the applicable agreements because they, and not the summaries, define many of

your rights as holders of the units. For more information, please review the form of the relevant agreements, which will be filed with the SEC promptly after the offering of units and will be available as described under [Where You Can Find More Information](#).

DESCRIPTION OF PURCHASE RIGHTS

We may issue rights to purchase common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, warrants or units. These rights may be issued independently or together with any other security and may or may not be transferable by the person receiving the rights in such offering. In connection with any offering of such rights, we may enter into a standby arrangement with one or more underwriters or other purchasers pursuant to which the underwriters or other purchasers may be required to purchase any securities remaining unsubscribed for after such offering.

Table of Contents

Each series of rights will be issued under a separate rights agreement which we will enter into with a bank or trust company, as rights agent, all as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. The rights agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the certificates relating to the rights and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust with any holders of rights certificates or beneficial owners of rights.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the specific terms of any offering of rights for which this prospectus is being delivered, including the following:

the designation and terms of the units and of the securities comprising the units, including whether and under what circumstances the securities comprising the units may be held or transferred separately;

the date of determining the shareholders entitled to the rights distribution;

the number of rights issued or to be issued to each shareholder;

the exercise price payable for each share of common stock, preferred stock, debt security, warrant or unit upon the exercise of the rights;

the number and terms of the shares of common stock, preferred stock, debt security, warrants or units which may be purchased per each right;

the extent to which the rights are transferable;

the date on which the holder's ability to exercise the rights shall commence, and the date on which the rights shall expire;

the extent to which the rights may include an over-subscription privilege with respect to unsubscribed securities;

if applicable, the material terms of any standby underwriting or purchase arrangement entered into by us in connection with the offering of such rights; and

any other terms of the rights, including the terms, procedures, conditions, and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the rights.

The descriptions of the rights and any applicable underlying security in this prospectus and in any prospectus supplement are summaries of the material provisions of the applicable agreements. These descriptions do not restate those agreements in their entirety and may not contain all the information that you may find useful. We urge you to

read the applicable agreements because they, and not the summaries, define many of your rights as holders of the securities. For more information, please review the form of the relevant agreements, which will be filed with the SEC promptly after the offering of purchase rights and will be available as described under [Where You Can Find More Information](#).

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell securities covered by this prospectus in and outside the United States (a) through underwriters or dealers, (b) directly to purchasers, including our affiliates, (c) through agents or (d) through a combination of any of these methods. The accompanying prospectus supplement will set forth the terms of the offering and the method of distribution and will identify any firms acting as underwriters, dealers or agents in connection with the offering, including:

the names of any underwriters, dealers or agents;

the respective amounts underwritten;

the name or names of any managing underwriter or underwriters;

the terms of the offering;

Table of Contents

the purchase price of the securities and the net proceeds to us from the sale;

any underwriting discounts, commissions and other items constituting compensation to underwriters, dealers or agents;

any public offering price;

any discounts or concessions allowed or re-allowed or paid to dealers; and

any commissions paid to agents.

Only those underwriters identified in such prospectus supplement are deemed to be underwriters in connection with the securities offered in the prospectus supplement.

Sale Through Underwriters Or Dealers

If underwriters are used in an offering, the underwriters will acquire securities for their own account. The underwriters may resell the securities from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. Underwriters may offer the securities to the public either through underwriting syndicates represented by one or more managing underwriters or directly by one or more firms acting as underwriters. Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase securities will be subject to certain conditions, and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all the offered securities if they purchase any of them. The underwriters may change from time to time any offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or re-allowed or paid to dealers.

During and after an offering through underwriters, the underwriters may purchase and sell the securities in the open market. These transactions may include overallotment and stabilizing transactions and purchases to cover syndicate short positions created in connection with the offering.

If dealers are used in the sale of the securities covered by this prospectus, we will sell the securities to them as principals. They may then resell those securities to the public at varying prices determined by the dealers at the time of resale. We will include in the prospectus supplement the names of the dealers and the terms of the transaction.

At-the-Market Offerings

We may engage in at-the-market offerings of our common stock. An at-the-market offering is an offering of our common stock at other than a fixed price to or through a market maker.

Direct Sales and Sales Through Agents

We may sell the securities covered by this prospectus directly. In this case, no underwriters or agents would be involved. We may also sell the securities through agents designated from time to time. In the prospectus supplement, we will name any agent involved in the offer or sale of the shares, and we will describe any commissions payable to the agent. Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, any agent will agree to use its reasonable best efforts to solicit purchases for the period of its appointment.

We may sell the securities covered by this prospectus directly to institutional investors or others who may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), with respect to any sale of those securities. We will describe the terms of any such sales in the prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

Delayed Delivery Contracts

If we so indicate in the prospectus supplement, we may authorize agents, underwriters or dealers to solicit offers from certain types of institutions to purchase securities from us at the public offering price under delayed delivery contracts. These contracts would provide for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. The contracts would be subject only to those conditions described in the prospectus supplement. The prospectus supplement will describe the commission payable for solicitation of those contracts.

General Information

We may have agreements with the agents, dealers and underwriters to indemnify them against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute with respect to payments that the agents, dealers or underwriters may be required to make. Agents, dealers and underwriters may be customers of, engage in transactions with or perform services for us in the ordinary course of their businesses.

LEGAL MATTERS

Bowen, Radabaugh & Milton, P.C., Troy, Michigan, has passed upon the validity of the securities to be offered pursuant to this prospectus.

EXPERTS

The financial statements incorporated in this prospectus by reference from our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 have been audited by UHY LLP, our independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report, which is incorporated herein by reference and have been so incorporated in reliance upon the report of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents

Up to \$20,000,000

Common Stock

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

January 23, 2017