

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD

Form 424B5

March 15, 2010

Table of Contents

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)

Registration Nos. 333-143585

333-143585-01

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of each class of securities to be registered	Amount to be Registered	Proposed maximum offering price per unit	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price	Amount of registration fee (1)(2)
5.750% Senior Notes due 2020	\$250,000,000	99.633%	\$249,082,500	\$17,759.59

(1) Calculated in accordance with Rule 457(r) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended

(2) Pursuant to Rule 457(p), this fee is being offset against a balance of previously paid fees of \$31,675 relating to unsold securities previously registered under Registration Statement No. 333-117318, originally filed by RenaissanceRe on July 12, 2004.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(To Prospectus dated June 7, 2007)

\$250,000,000

RenRe North America Holdings Inc.

5.750% Senior Notes Due 2020

Fully and Unconditionally Guaranteed by

RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd.

The notes will bear interest at the rate of 5.750% per year. Interest on the notes is payable on March 15 and September 15 of each year, commencing on September 15, 2010. The notes will mature on March 15, 2020. RenRe North America Holdings Inc. may redeem some or all of the notes at any time or from time to time, at the redemption price described under the heading **Description of Notes and Guarantee** **Optional Redemption**. RenRe North America Holdings Inc. may also redeem all of the notes under the circumstances described under the heading **Description of Notes and Guarantee** **Redemption for Changes in Withholding Taxes**.

RenRe North America Holdings Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd. The notes will be senior obligations of RenRe North America Holdings Inc. and will rank equally with all of RenRe North America Holdings Inc.'s future unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness. RenRe North America Holdings Inc. does not intend to apply for listing of the notes on any national securities exchange. RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd. will fully and unconditionally guarantee the Notes on a senior unsecured basis.

Investing in the notes involves certain risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page S-5 of this prospectus supplement and included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009.

None of the Securities and Exchange Commission, any state securities commission or any other regulatory body 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.

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form 424B5

	Per Senior Note	Total
Public Offering Price ⁽¹⁾	99.633%	\$ 249,082,500
Underwriting Discount	0.650%	\$ 1,625,000
Proceeds to RenRe North America Holdings Inc. (before expenses) ⁽¹⁾	98.983%	\$ 247,457,500

(1) Plus accrued interest from March 17, 2010, if settlement occurs after that date.

The underwriters expect to deliver the notes to purchasers in book-entry form only through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company on or about March 17, 2010.

Joint Book-Runners

BofA Merrill Lynch

Citi

Joint Lead Manager

Wells Fargo Securities

Co-Managers

Barclays Capital

HSBC

March 12, 2010

Table of Contents

You should carefully read this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus delivered with this prospectus supplement. You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. We have not authorized anyone 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 the underwriters are not, making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

No offered securities may be offered or sold in Bermuda and offers may only be accepted from persons resident in Bermuda, for Bermuda exchange control purposes, where such offers have been delivered outside of Bermuda.

In this prospectus supplement, references to RenaissanceRe refer to RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd. and when the context so requires, RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd. and its subsidiaries. In this prospectus supplement, references to RRNAH refer to RenRe North America Holdings Inc., formerly known as Glencoe U.S. Holdings Inc. In this prospectus supplement, references to dollar and \$ are to United States currency, and the terms United States and U.S. mean the United States of America, its states, its territories, its possessions and all areas subject to its jurisdiction.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Prospectus Supplement	
<u>About This Prospectus Supplement</u>	i
<u>Disclosure Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	i
<u>Prospectus Supplement Summary</u>	S-1
<u>Risk Factors</u>	S-5
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	S-8
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	S-8
<u>Capitalization</u>	S-9
<u>Description of Notes and Guarantee</u>	S-10
<u>Certain United States Federal Income Tax Considerations</u>	S-18
<u>Underwriting</u>	S-21
<u>Legal Matters</u>	S-25
<u>Experts</u>	S-25
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	S-25
Prospectus	
<u>About This Prospectus</u>	1
<u>RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd</u>	2
<u>RenaissanceRe Finance</u>	3
<u>Glencoe U.S. Holdings Inc.</u>	3
<u>The Capital Trust</u>	3
<u>General Description of the Offered Securities</u>	4
<u>Ratio of Earnings To Fixed Charges and Preferred Share Dividends of RenaissanceRe</u>	5
<u>Ratio of Earnings To Fixed Charges of GUSH</u>	5
<u>Risk Factors</u>	6
<u>Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	23
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	25
<u>Description of Our Capital Shares</u>	26
<u>Description of the Depositary Shares</u>	38
<u>Description of the Debt Securities</u>	40
<u>Certain Provisions Applicable to Subordinated Debt Securities</u>	54
<u>Certain Provisions of Junior Subordinated Debt Securities Issued to the Capital Trust</u>	59
<u>Description of the Debt Securities Guarantees</u>	61
<u>Information Concerning the Trustee</u>	64
<u>Description of the Warrants To Purchase Common Shares or Preference Shares</u>	64
<u>Description of the Warrants to Purchase Debt Securities</u>	65
<u>Description of the Trust Preferred Securities</u>	66
<u>Description of the Trust Preferred Securities Guarantee</u>	78
<u>Description of the Share Purchase Contracts and the Share Purchase Units</u>	82
<u>Description of Units</u>	83
<u>Certain Tax Considerations</u>	84
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	91
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	94
<u>Incorporation of Certain Documents By Reference</u>	95
<u>Legal Opinions</u>	96
<u>Experts</u>	96
<u>Enforcement of Civil Liabilities Under United States Federal Securities Laws</u>	96

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This document is in two parts. The first is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of this offering. The second part is the accompanying prospectus which gives more general information, some of which may not apply to this offering. If the description of this offering varies between this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, you should rely on the information in this prospectus supplement. In addition, you should review the risks of investing in RRNAH's Notes (as defined below) discussed in this prospectus supplement, as well as the risk factors contained in RenaissanceRe's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, and incorporated herein by reference, prior to making an investment decision. Important information is incorporated into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus by reference. You may obtain the information incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus without charge by following the instructions under "Where You Can Find More Information."

DISCLOSURE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus supplement, including the information incorporated by reference herein, may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"). Forward-looking statements are necessarily based on estimates and assumptions that are inherently subject to significant business, economic and competitive uncertainties and contingencies, many of which, with respect to future business decisions, are subject to change. These uncertainties and contingencies can affect actual results and could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in any forward-looking statements made by, or on behalf of, us.

In particular, statements using words such as "may," "should," "estimate," "expect," "anticipate," "intends," "believe," "predict," "potential," or "will" import generally involve forward-looking statements. In light of the risks and uncertainties inherent in all future projections, the inclusion of forward-looking statements in the prospectus supplement should not be considered as a representation by us or any other person that our objectives or plans will be achieved. Numerous factors could cause our actual results to differ materially from those addressed by the forward-looking statements, including those contained under "Note on Forward-Looking Statements" in RenaissanceRe's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, and incorporated herein by reference, or the occurrence of adverse claim development with respect to the catastrophic events referred to under "Prospectus Supplement Summary - Recent Developments," which are subject to adjustments that may be material as RenaissanceRe receives actual loss data from its clients.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY

This summary highlights selected information about RenaissanceRe and this offering. It does not contain all of the information that may be important to you in deciding whether to purchase Notes. We encourage you to read the entire prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents that we have filed with the Commission that are incorporated by reference prior to deciding whether to purchase Notes.

RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd.

RenaissanceRe, the guarantor of the Notes, is a Bermuda company with its registered and principal executive offices located at Renaissance House, 8-20 East Broadway, Pembroke HM 19 Bermuda, telephone (441) 295-4513. Through its operating subsidiaries, RenaissanceRe seeks to produce superior returns for its shareholders by being a trusted, long-term partner to its customers for assessing and managing risk, delivering responsive solutions, and keeping its promises. For the year ended December 31, 2009, RenaissanceRe reported net income available to common shareholders of \$838.9 million or \$13.40 per diluted common share; a return on average common equity of 30.2%; and an increase in book value per common share of \$12.94, or 33.4%.

RenaissanceRe conducts its business through two reportable segments, Reinsurance and Individual Risk. For the year ended December 31, 2009, the Reinsurance and Individual Risk segments accounted for approximately 69.3% and 30.7%, respectively, of RenaissanceRe's total consolidated gross premiums written. RenaissanceRe believes that it is one of the world's leading providers of property catastrophe reinsurance. RenaissanceRe also believes that it has a strong position in certain specialty reinsurance lines of business and is building a franchise in the U.S. insurance and crop insurance business. Overall, RenaissanceRe's strategy focuses on superior risk selection, marketing, capital management and joint ventures.

RenRe North America Holdings Inc.

RRNAH, the issuer of the 5.750% Senior Notes due 2020, which we refer to in this prospectus supplement as the Notes, is a Delaware corporation and a wholly owned subsidiary of RenaissanceRe. Its principal executive offices are located at 5801 Tennyson Parkway, Suite 600, Plano, Texas, 75024, telephone (972) 664-7110. RRNAH principally serves as the holding company for the U.S.-based operating subsidiaries of RenRe Insurance Holdings Ltd. and has no direct operations. RRNAH was formerly known as Glencoe U.S. Holdings Inc.

Table of Contents**The Offering**

This section provides a summary of the terms of the Notes and the full and unconditional guarantee thereof by RenaissanceRe, which we refer to in this prospectus supplement as the Guarantee. Because the following summary is not complete, you should refer to the indenture among RRNAH, as issuer, RenaissanceRe, as guarantor, and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as trustee, as supplemented by a supplemental indenture, for a complete description of the terms of the Notes. You should also refer to the sections entitled Description of Notes and Guarantee in this prospectus supplement and Description of the Debt Securities in the accompanying prospectus.

Issuer	RenRe North America Holdings Inc.
Guarantor	RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd.
Securities Offered	\$250 million aggregate principal amount of 5.750% Senior Notes due 2020.
Interest Rate	5.750% per year.
Interest Payment Dates	Semi-annually on each March 15 and September 15, commencing September 15, 2010.
Maturity	March 15, 2020.
Redemption	RRNAH may redeem some or all of the Notes at any time or from time to time at the redemption price described in Description of Notes and Guarantee Optional Redemption. RRNAH may also redeem all of the Notes under the circumstances described under Description of Notes and Guarantee Redemption for Changes in Withholding Taxes.
Ranking	<p>The Notes will be senior unsecured obligations of RRNAH and will rank equally in right of payment to all of RRNAH's future unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness from time to time outstanding. The Notes will be effectively subordinated to all secured obligations of RRNAH to the extent of the security therefor and to all existing and future obligations of RRNAH's subsidiaries, including claims with respect to trade payables. As of March 9, 2010, RRNAH had \$80.0 million of indebtedness for borrowed money outstanding (all of which was unsecured intercompany indebtedness). As of March 9, 2010, RRNAH's subsidiaries had no indebtedness for borrowed money outstanding, and RRNAH's subsidiaries had \$6.6 million face amount of letters of credit outstanding, the reimbursement obligations with respect to which were secured by certain assets of these subsidiaries.</p> <p>The Guarantee will be a senior unsecured obligation of RenaissanceRe and will rank equally in right of payment with all other existing and future unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness of RenaissanceRe from time to time outstanding. The Guarantee will</p>

Table of Contents

be effectively subordinated to all existing and future secured obligations of RenaissanceRe to the extent of the security therefor and to all existing and future obligations of RenaissanceRe's subsidiaries, including claims with respect to trade payables. As of March 9, 2010, RenaissanceRe had \$124.0 million of indebtedness for borrowed money outstanding (\$24.0 million of which was intercompany indebtedness), all of which was unsecured, and RenaissanceRe's subsidiaries had a total of \$200.0 million of indebtedness for borrowed money outstanding. In addition, as of March 9, 2010, RenaissanceRe's subsidiaries had \$863.9 million face amount of letters of credit outstanding, the reimbursement obligations with respect to which were secured by certain assets of these subsidiaries.

Use of Proceeds

We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering for general corporate purposes, including the repayment of approximately \$80 million of intercompany borrowings. See Use of Proceeds.

Covenants

The Notes contain various covenants, including limitations on mergers, amalgamations and consolidations, restrictions as to the disposition of the stock of designated subsidiaries and limitations on liens on the stock of designated subsidiaries.

Risk Factors

Investing in the Notes involves certain risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page S-5 of this prospectus supplement.

Form and Denomination

The Notes will be represented by one or more global notes, deposited with the trustee as custodian for The Depository Trust Company and registered in the name of Cede & Co., The Depository Trust Company's nominee. The Notes will be issued in denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof.

Governing Law

The State of New York.

Table of Contents

Recent Developments

Recent Events

On February 27, 2010, an earthquake with a magnitude of 8.8 on the Richter Scale struck Chile causing significant destruction. Currently, publicly available industry insured loss estimates for this event range from approximately \$2 billion to approximately \$10 billion. Also on February 27, 2010, a powerful windstorm named Xynthia impacted Western Europe. The storm brought flash flooding and damaging winds to Portugal, western and northern Spain and western France, and also affected parts of the Netherlands, Germany and Belgium. Currently publicly available industry insured loss estimates from windstorm Xynthia range from approximately 1 billion to approximately 3 billion. Meaningful uncertainty remains regarding the industry loss estimates for both the Chilean earthquake and windstorm Xynthia, including as a result of the preliminary nature of the information available, inadequacies in the data provided thus far by industry participants, the magnitude and recent occurrence of the Chilean earthquake and the expected lengthy claims development period, and other factors.

RenaissanceRe is in the process of calculating its expected net after-tax catastrophe costs relating to these events. Due to the preliminary nature of the available information as to the Chilean earthquake and the other factors described above, it is difficult at this time to provide an accurate estimate of the financial impact of this event on RenaissanceRe. Based upon the current publicly available industry preliminary insured loss estimates, market share analysis, the application of RenaissanceRe's modeling techniques and a review of RenaissanceRe's in-force contracts, RenaissanceRe's current preliminary assessment is that the impact of the Chilean earthquake and windstorm Xynthia on its financial results (net of reinstatement premiums, retrocessional recoveries and noncontrolling interest) will be significant and could be material. However, based on a review of the information currently available to it, and subject to a range of current estimates and assumptions, RenaissanceRe currently expects to report a profit for the first quarter of 2010 (assuming the non-occurrence of additional severe insured catastrophe events during the remainder of the quarter and subject to normal volatility affecting assumptions underlying RenaissanceRe's financial performance as discussed in the risk factors contained in RenaissanceRe's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, which is incorporated into this prospectus supplement by reference).

Renewal of Revolving Credit Facility

As disclosed in RenaissanceRe's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, RenaissanceRe's revolving credit facility is scheduled to expire on March 31, 2010 and RenaissanceRe is currently negotiating a renewal thereof. In connection with this offering, RenaissanceRe currently contemplates reducing the size of the revolving credit facility to \$150 million, though any such renewal may be for a greater or smaller commitment. See **Risk Factors** We may require additional capital in the future, which may not be available or only available on unfavorable terms in RenaissanceRe's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009, which is incorporated into this prospectus supplement by reference.

Share Repurchases

On February 17, 2010, RenaissanceRe approved an increase in its authorized share repurchase program to an aggregate amount of \$500.0 million. Subsequent to February 17, 2010 and through March 9, 2010, RenaissanceRe repurchased 922,879 of its common shares at an aggregate cost of \$51.2 million at an average share price of \$55.45.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Your investment in the Notes will involve a degree of risk, including those risks that are described in this section. The risks and uncertainties described below are not the only ones relevant to an investment in the Notes. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also impair our business operations. If any of these risks actually occurs, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially affected. In that case, the value of the Notes could decline substantially. You should carefully consider the following discussion of risks as well as the risks in the section entitled **Risk Factors** in RenaissanceRe's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, which is incorporated into this prospectus supplement by reference, before deciding whether an investment in the Notes is suitable for you. These risk factors update and replace the risk factors in the accompanying prospectus under the caption **Risk Factors**.

Risks Relating to the Notes

An active trading market for the Notes may not develop.

The Notes constitute a new issue of securities with no established trading market. We cannot assure you that an active after-market for the Notes will develop or be sustained or that holders of the Notes will be able to sell their Notes at favorable prices or at all. Although the underwriters have indicated to us that they intend to make a market in the Notes, as permitted by applicable laws and regulations, they are not obligated to do so and may discontinue any such market-making at any time without notice. Accordingly, we cannot give any assurance as to the liquidity of, or trading markets for, the Notes. The Notes are not listed, and we do not plan to apply to list the Notes on any securities exchange or to include them in any automated quotation system.

The Notes and Guarantee are obligations of RRNAH and RenaissanceRe, respectively, and not of our operating subsidiaries and will be effectively subordinated to the claims of the operating subsidiaries' creditors.

The Notes are an obligation of RRNAH. RRNAH is a holding company and, accordingly, it conducts substantially all of its operations through its operating subsidiaries. As a result, RRNAH's cash flow and its ability to service its debt depends upon the earnings of its operating subsidiaries and on the distribution of earnings, loans or other payments from such subsidiaries to RRNAH.

The Guarantee is an obligation of RenaissanceRe and not of its subsidiaries. RenaissanceRe is a holding company and, accordingly, it conducts substantially all of its operations through its operating subsidiaries. As a result, RenaissanceRe's cash flow and its ability to service its debt, including the Guarantee, depend upon the earnings of its operating subsidiaries and on the distribution of earnings, loans or other payments from such subsidiaries to RenaissanceRe. See **Risk Factors**. Because we are a holding company, we are dependent on dividends and payments from our subsidiaries in RenaissanceRe's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, which is incorporated into this prospectus supplement by reference.

The operating subsidiaries of RRNAH and RenaissanceRe are separate and distinct legal entities and have no obligation to pay any amounts due on the Notes or the Guarantee or to provide RRNAH or RenaissanceRe with funds for their respective payment obligations, whether by dividends, distributions, loans or other payments. In addition to being limited by the financial condition and operating requirements of such subsidiaries, any payment of dividends, distributions, loans or advances by RRNAH's or RenaissanceRe's subsidiaries to RRNAH or RenaissanceRe could be subject to statutory or contractual restrictions. Moreover, since certain of RRNAH's and RenaissanceRe's subsidiaries are insurance companies, their ability to pay dividends to RRNAH or RenaissanceRe, as applicable, is subject to regulatory limitations. See **Business Regulation** in RenaissanceRe's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, which is incorporated into this prospectus supplement by reference.

Table of Contents

The rights of RRNAH and RenaissanceRe to receive any assets of any of their respective subsidiaries upon liquidation or reorganization of such subsidiaries, and therefore the rights of the holders of the Notes and the Guarantee, respectively, to participate in those assets, will be structurally subordinated to the claims of such subsidiary's creditors. In addition, even if RRNAH or RenaissanceRe were a creditor of any of their respective subsidiaries, the rights of RRNAH or RenaissanceRe, as applicable, as a creditor would be subordinate to any security interest in the assets of such subsidiaries and any indebtedness of such subsidiaries senior to that held by it. The Notes and the Guarantee would also be structurally subordinated to the rights of the holders of any preferred stock issued by the subsidiaries of either RRNAH or RenaissanceRe, as applicable, whether currently outstanding or issued hereafter.

RRNAH may redeem the Notes prior to the maturity date and you may not be able to reinvest in a comparable security.

RRNAH may redeem some or all of the Notes at any time or from time to time at the redemption price described in Description of Notes and Guarantee Optional Redemption. RRNAH may also redeem the Notes in certain circumstances as described under Description of Notes and Guarantee Redemption for Changes in Withholding Taxes. In the event RRNAH chooses to redeem your Notes, you may not be able to reinvest the redemption proceeds in a comparable security at an effective interest rate as high as the interest rate on the Notes.

The Indenture does not prohibit the incurrence of unsecured indebtedness by, or any fundamental change of, RRNAH or RenaissanceRe.

The Indenture (defined below) does not limit the issuance of unsecured debt that RRNAH or RenaissanceRe or their respective subsidiaries can incur. However, the Indenture does restrict the ability of RRNAH, RenaissanceRe and their respective subsidiaries to incur secured debt. See Description of Notes and Guarantee Certain Covenants Limitation on Liens on Stock of Designated Subsidiaries in this prospectus supplement.

Except as described under the caption Description of the Debt Securities Consolidation, Amalgamation, Merger and Sale of Assets in the accompanying prospectus and the caption Description of Notes and Guarantee Certain Covenants Limitation on Liens on Stock of Designated Subsidiaries in this prospectus supplement, the Indenture does not contain any provisions that would afford holders of the Notes protection in the event of (i) a highly leveraged or similar transaction involving RRNAH, RenaissanceRe or their respective affiliates, (ii) a change of control or (iii) a reorganization, restructuring, merger, amalgamation or similar transaction that may adversely affect the holders of the Notes.

In addition, subject to the limitations set forth under the caption Description of the Debt Securities Consolidation, Amalgamation, Merger and Sale of Assets in the accompanying prospectus, RRNAH or RenaissanceRe may, in the future, enter into certain transactions such as the sale of all or substantially all of their respective assets or the merger, amalgamation or consolidation with another entity that would increase the amount of their respective indebtedness or substantially reduce or eliminate their respective assets, which may have an adverse effect on their ability to service their indebtedness, including the Notes and the Guarantee.

Bermuda law allows courts, under specific circumstances, to void guarantees and require noteholders to return payments received from guarantors.

The issuance of the Guarantee of the Notes by RenaissanceRe may be subject to review under Bermuda law if:

a liquidator, on behalf of RenaissanceRe, were to apply to the Bermuda courts to void the Guarantee on the grounds that the issuance of the Guarantee constituted a fraudulent preference; or

Table of Contents

at the time of, or immediately after, the issuance of the Guarantee, RenaissanceRe was insolvent; and RenaissanceRe entered into formal insolvency proceedings within six months of the issuance of the Guarantee.

In addition, under Bermuda law, a transaction, which could include the issuance of the Guarantee, at less than fair value and made with the dominant intention of putting property beyond the reach of creditors is voidable after an action is successfully brought by an eligible creditor within a period of six years from the date of the transaction. A transaction, which could include the issuance of the Guarantee, might be challenged if it involved a gift by the company or if a company received consideration of significantly less than the benefit given by such company.

S-7

Table of Contents**USE OF PROCEEDS**

We expect that the net proceeds from this offering, after deducting the underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated expenses payable by us, will be approximately \$246.6 million. RRNAH intends to use the net proceeds from this offering to repay approximately \$80 million of intercompany borrowings, which borrowings bear interest at a rate of 10% per annum and mature in February 2019, and to redeem a portion of its stock, such that the net proceeds from this offering will indirectly be distributed to RenaissanceRe. RenaissanceRe intends to use the net proceeds from this offering for general corporate purposes.

RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following ratios of RenaissanceRe and RRNAH update and replace the ratios in the accompanying prospectus under the captions Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Preference Share Dividends of RenaissanceRe and Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges of GUSH.

Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges of RenaissanceRe

For purposes of computing the following ratios of RenaissanceRe, earnings consist of pre-tax income from continuing operations before adjustment for non-controlling interest in consolidated subsidiaries or undistributed income from equity method investees, plus fixed charges to the extent that these charges are included in the determination of earnings. Fixed charges consist of interest costs and one-third of minimum rental payments under operating leases (estimated by our management to be the interest factor of these rentals). The following ratios do not give effect to this offering or any repurchases made by RenaissanceRe of its common shares subsequent to December 31, 2009.

	FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,				
	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges	62.51	4.33	26.84	24.61	(12.97)

Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges of RRNAH

For purposes of computing the following ratios of RRNAH, earnings consist of pre-tax income from continuing operations before adjustment for non-controlling interest in consolidated subsidiaries or undistributed income from equity method investees, plus fixed charges to the extent that these charges are included in the determination of earnings. Fixed charges consist of interest costs and one-third of minimum rental payments under operating leases (estimated by our management to be the interest factor of these rentals). The following ratios do not give effect to this offering or any repurchases made by RenaissanceRe of its common shares subsequent to December 31, 2009.

	FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,				
	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges	2.58	1.28	17.34	16.72	13.60

Table of Contents**CAPITALIZATION**

The following table sets forth RenaissanceRe's consolidated capitalization at December 31, 2009, on a historical basis and as adjusted to give effect to the application of the estimated net proceeds from the offering of the Notes. This table should be read in conjunction with RenaissanceRe's consolidated financial statements and related notes thereto and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, both of which can be found in RenaissanceRe's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, which is incorporated into this prospectus supplement by reference.

	At December 31, 2009	
	Actual	As Adjusted ⁽⁶⁾
	(in thousands)	
RenaissanceRe revolving credit facility ⁽¹⁾	\$	
DaVinciRe revolving credit facility ⁽²⁾	200,000	200,000
Renaissance Trading revolving credit facility ⁽³⁾		
5.875% Senior Notes due 2013	100,000	100,000
5.750% Senior Notes due 2020 offered hereby		250,000
Series B preference shareholders' equity	100,000	100,000
Series C preference shareholders' equity	250,000	250,000
Series D preference shareholders' equity	300,000	300,000
Common shareholders' equity ⁽⁴⁾	3,190,786	3,190,786
Total capitalization	\$ 4,140,786	4,390,786
Ratio of debt to total capitalization ⁽⁵⁾	7.2%	12.5%

- (1) RenaissanceRe is party to a \$345 million unsecured revolving credit facility, of which none was drawn at December 31, 2009. This facility is with a syndicate of commercial banks. RenaissanceRe is currently engaged in discussions with its lenders to renew this facility. See Prospectus Supplement Summary Recent Developments.
- (2) RenaissanceRe's consolidated subsidiary, DaVinciRe Holdings Ltd., is a party to a \$200 million revolving credit agreement, of which \$200 million was drawn and remained outstanding at December 31, 2009. This facility is with a syndicate of commercial banks. RenaissanceRe controls a majority of DaVinciRe's voting power but owns a minority of its outstanding equity interests.
- (3) RenaissanceRe's consolidated subsidiary, Renaissance Trading Ltd., is a party to a \$10 million unsecured revolving credit facility, of which none was drawn and remained outstanding at December 31, 2009.
- (4) Shareholders' Equity has not been adjusted to reflect interest expense or investment income from the time the Notes are issued.
- (5) For purposes of computing the ratio of debt to total capitalization, debt consists of the outstanding amounts under the RenaissanceRe revolving credit facility, the DaVinciRe revolving credit facility, the Renaissance Trading revolving credit facility and the 5.875% Senior Notes due 2013 referenced above, and as adjusted, the Notes offered hereby.
- (6) Does not give effect to any repurchases made by RenaissanceRe of its common shares subsequent to December 31, 2009.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF NOTES AND GUARANTEE

The following description of the specific terms of the Notes that RRNAH is offering and the Guarantee of the Notes by RenaissanceRe supplements the description of the general terms and provisions of (i) the senior debt securities set forth in the accompanying prospectus under the caption "Description of the Debt Securities" and (ii) the Guarantee set forth in the accompanying prospectus under the caption "Description of the Debt Securities Guarantees."

The Notes constitute a series of debt securities, which are more fully described in the accompanying prospectus, to be issued pursuant to an indenture among RRNAH, as issuer, RenaissanceRe, as guarantor, and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as trustee, as supplemented by a first supplemental indenture among RRNAH, as issuer, RenaissanceRe, as guarantor, and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as trustee (together, the "Indenture"). The terms of the Notes include those provisions contained in the Indenture and those made part of the Indenture by reference to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended (the "Trust Indenture Act"). The Notes are subject to all such terms, and holders of Notes are referred to the Indenture and the Trust Indenture Act for a statement of such terms. The following summaries of certain provisions of the Indenture do not purport to be complete and are subject to and qualified in their entirety by reference to the Indenture, including the definitions in the Indenture of certain terms used below.

General

The Notes will be senior, unsecured obligations of RRNAH and will rank equally in right of payment to all of RRNAH's future unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness from time to time outstanding. The Notes will be effectively subordinated to all future secured obligations of RRNAH to the extent of the security thereunder and structurally subordinated to all obligations of RRNAH's future subsidiaries, including claims with respect to trade payables. All liabilities of RRNAH's future subsidiaries will be effectively senior to the Notes.

The Notes will mature on March 15, 2020. The Notes will be initially issued through The Depository Trust Company ("DTC") in fully registered form without coupons, in denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof, except under the limited circumstances described below under "Delivery and Form." The Notes will initially be limited in aggregate principal amount to \$250,000,000. On one or more occasions after the sale of the Notes, RRNAH may issue additional notes under the Indenture having substantially identical terms to the Notes offered hereby (except for the public offering price and the issue date). The Notes and any such additional notes subsequently issued under the Indenture will be treated as a single class for all purposes under the Indenture, including, without limitation, waivers, amendments and redemptions.

Guarantee

RenaissanceRe will fully and unconditionally guarantee all payments on the Notes. The Guarantee will be a senior unsecured obligation of RenaissanceRe and will rank equally in right of payment with all other existing and future unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness of RenaissanceRe from time to time outstanding. The Guarantee will be effectively subordinated to all existing and future secured obligations of RenaissanceRe to the extent of the security thereof and structurally subordinated to all existing and future obligations of RenaissanceRe's subsidiaries, including claims with respect to trade payables.

Principal and Interest

RRNAH will pay interest on the Notes at a rate of 5.750% per year semi-annually in arrears on March 15 and September 15 of each year, commencing September 15, 2010, to the persons in whose names the Notes are registered at the close of business on March 1 or September 1, as the case may be (whether or not a Business Day (as defined in the Indenture)), immediately preceding the relevant interest payment date. Interest will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months.

Table of Contents

If any interest payment date falls on a day that is not a Business Day, the interest payment will be postponed to the next day that is a Business Day, and no interest on such payment will accrue for the period from and after such interest payment date. If the maturity date of the Notes falls on a day that is not a Business Day, the payment of interest and principal may be made on the next succeeding Business Day, and no interest on such payment will accrue for the period from and after the maturity date. Interest payments for the Notes will include accrued interest from and including the date of issue or from and including the last date in respect of which interest has been paid, as the case may be, to, but excluding, the interest payment date or the date of maturity, as the case may be. Interest on the Notes which have a Redemption Date (as defined below) after a regular record date and on or before the following interest payment date will also be payable to the persons in whose names the Notes are so registered.

Payment of Additional Amounts

RenaissanceRe will make all payments under the Guarantee without withholding of any present or future taxes or governmental charges of its jurisdiction of organization or principal executive offices (each, a taxing jurisdiction) unless it is required to do so by applicable law or regulation. If under the laws or regulations of a taxing jurisdiction RenaissanceRe is required to withhold amounts, it will, subject to the limitations described in the accompanying prospectus under Description of Debt Securities Guarantees General, pay to persons in whose names the Notes are registered additional amounts so that every net payment made to such persons, after the withholding, will be the same amount provided for in the Guarantee.

Redemption for Changes in Withholding Taxes

RRNAH will be entitled to redeem the Notes, at its option, at any time as a whole but not in part, upon not less than 30 nor more than 60 days notice, at 100% of the principal amount thereof, plus accrued and unpaid interest (if any) to the Redemption Date (subject to the right of holders of record on the relevant record date to receive interest due on the relevant interest payment date), in the event that RenaissanceRe has become or would become obligated to pay, on the next date on which any amount would be payable with respect to the Notes, any additional amounts as a result of:

a change in or an amendment to the laws (including any regulations promulgated thereunder) of a taxing jurisdiction, which change or amendment is announced after the date of this prospectus supplement; or

any change in or amendment to any official position regarding the application or interpretation of the laws or regulations of a taxing jurisdiction, which change or amendment is announced after the date of this prospectus supplement, and, in each case, RenaissanceRe cannot avoid such obligation by taking reasonable measures available to it.

Before RRNAH publishes or mails any notice of redemption of the Notes as described above, it will deliver to the trustee an officers certificate to the effect that it cannot avoid its obligation to pay additional amounts by taking reasonable measures available to it and an opinion of independent legal counsel of recognized standing stating that RenaissanceRe would be obligated to pay additional amounts as a result of a change in tax laws or regulations or the application or interpretation of such laws or regulations.

Optional Redemption

RRNAH will be entitled to redeem the Notes, at its option, at any time in whole or from time to time in part, on not less than 30 nor more than 60 days prior notice to the holders of the Notes, on any date prior to maturity (a Redemption Date) at a redemption price equal to the greater of (i) 100% of the principal amount of the Notes to be redeemed and (ii) the Discounted Present Value of the Notes subject to redemption, plus in each

Table of Contents

case accrued and unpaid interest on the principal amount of the Notes being redeemed to, but excluding, the Redemption Date.

Discounted Present Value of any Note subject to optional redemption shall be equal to the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest (excluding interest accrued to the Redemption Date) on such Note discounted to the Redemption Date on a semi-annual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) at the applicable Treasury Rate plus 30 basis points.

Treasury Rate means, with respect to any Redemption Date, (i) the yield, under the heading which represents the average for the immediately preceding week, appearing in the most recently published statistical release designated H.15 (519) or any successor publication which is published weekly by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and which establishes yields on actively traded United States Treasury securities adjusted to constant maturity under the caption Treasury Constant Maturities, for the maturity corresponding to the Comparable Treasury Issue (if no maturity is within three months before or after the Remaining Life (as defined in the Indenture), yields for the two published maturities most closely corresponding to the Comparable Treasury Issue will be determined and the Treasury Rate will be interpolated or extrapolated from such yields on a straight line basis, rounding to the nearest month) or (ii) if such release (or any successor release) is not published during the week preceding the calculation date or does not contain such yields, the rate per year equal to the semi-annual equivalent yield-to-maturity of the Comparable Treasury Issue, calculated using a price for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed as a percentage of its principal amount) equal to the Comparable Treasury Price for such Redemption Date. The Treasury Rate will be calculated on the third Business Day preceding the Redemption Date.

Comparable Treasury Issue means the United States Treasury security selected by an Independent Investment Banker as having a maturity comparable to the remaining term of the Notes to be redeemed.

Comparable Treasury Price means (i) the average of four Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations for such Redemption Date, after excluding the highest and lowest Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, or (ii) if the Independent Investment Banker obtains fewer than four such Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, the average of all such quotations.

Independent Investment Banker means Banc of America Securities LLC or Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and their respective successors or, if both firms are unwilling or unable to select the Comparable Treasury Issue, an independent investment banking institution of national standing appointed by RRNAH.

Reference Treasury Dealer means each of (i) Banc of America Securities LLC and Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and their respective successors; provided, however, that if either of the foregoing shall cease to be a primary U.S. Government securities dealer in the City of New York (a Primary Treasury Dealer), RRNAH will substitute another Primary Treasury Dealer and (ii) any two other Primary Treasury Dealers selected by the Independent Investment Banker after consultation with RRNAH.

Reference Treasury Dealer Quotation means, with respect to each Reference Treasury Dealer and any Redemption Date, the average, as determined by the Independent Investment Banker, of the bid and asked prices for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed in each case as a percentage of its principal amount) quoted in writing to the Independent Investment Banker at 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the third Business Day preceding such Redemption Date.

If less than all of the Notes are to be redeemed, the Notes to be redeemed shall be selected by lot by DTC, in the case of Notes represented by a global security, or by the trustee by a method the trustee deems to be fair and appropriate, in the case of Notes that are not represented by a global security.

The Notes will not be entitled to the benefit of any mandatory redemption or sinking fund.

Table of Contents

RRNAH will not be required to (1) register the transfer of or exchange the Notes during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of mailing of a notice of redemption of any Notes and ending at the close of business on the day of such mailing or (2) register the transfer or exchange of any Note selected for redemption in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion of any Note being redeemed in part.

Certain Covenants

Limitation on Liens on Stock of Designated Subsidiaries

Under the Indenture, we covenant that, so long as any Notes are outstanding, neither RRNAH nor RenaissanceRe will, nor will they permit any subsidiary to, create, assume, incur, guarantee or otherwise permit to exist any Indebtedness secured by any Lien upon any shares of Capital Stock of any Designated Subsidiary (whether such shares of stock are now owned or hereafter acquired) without effectively providing concurrently that the Notes (and, if RRNAH and RenaissanceRe so elect, any other Indebtedness of RRNAH or RenaissanceRe that is not subordinate to the Notes and the Guarantee, respectively, and with respect to which the governing instruments require, or pursuant to which RRNAH or RenaissanceRe, as applicable, is otherwise obligated, to provide such security) shall be secured equally and ratably with such Indebtedness for at least the time period such other Indebtedness is so secured.

For purposes of the Indenture, Capital Stock of any person means any and all shares, interests, rights to purchase, warrants, options, participations or other equivalents of or interests in (however designated) equity of such person, including preferred stock, but excluding any debt securities convertible into such equity.

The term Designated Subsidiary means any present or future consolidated subsidiary of RenaissanceRe, (i) the consolidated net worth of which constitutes at least 10% of RenaissanceRe's consolidated net worth and (ii) in which RenaissanceRe holds, directly or indirectly, equity interests entitled to more than 50% of the profits thereof. As of March 9, 2010, RenaissanceRe's only Designated Subsidiaries were RenRe Insurance Holdings Ltd. and Renaissance Reinsurance Ltd.

The term Indebtedness means, with respect to any person:

- (1) the principal of and any premium and interest on (a) indebtedness of such person for money borrowed and (b) indebtedness evidenced by notes, debentures, bonds or other similar instruments for the payment of which such person is responsible or liable;
- (2) all Capitalized Lease Obligations (as defined in the Indenture) of such person;
- (3) all obligations of such person issued or assumed as the deferred purchase price of property, all conditional sale obligations and all obligations under any title retention agreement (but excluding trade accounts payable arising in the ordinary course of business);
- (4) all obligations of such person for the reimbursement of any obligor on any letter of credit, banker's acceptance or similar credit transaction (other than obligations with respect to letters of credit securing obligations (other than obligations described in (1) through (3) above) entered into in the ordinary course of business of such person to the extent such letters of credit are not drawn upon or, if and to the extent drawn upon, such drawing is reimbursed no later than the third Business Day following receipt by such person of a demand for reimbursement following payment on the letter of credit);
- (5) all obligations of the type referred to in clauses (1) through (4) above of other persons and all dividends of other persons for the payment of which, in either case, such person is responsible or liable as obligor, guarantor or otherwise;

Table of Contents

- (6) all obligations of the type referred to in clauses (1) through (5) above of other persons secured by a Lien on any property or asset of such person (whether or not such obligation is assumed by such person), the amount of such obligation being deemed to be the lesser of the value of such property or assets or the amount of the obligation so secured; and
- (7) any amendments, modifications, refundings, renewals or extensions of any indebtedness or obligation described as Indebtedness in clauses (1) through (6) above.

The term Lien means any mortgage, pledge, lien, security interest or other encumbrance.

Limitations on Disposition of Stock of Designated Subsidiaries

The Indenture also provides that, so long as any Notes are outstanding and except in a transaction otherwise governed by the Indenture, neither RRNAH nor RenaissanceRe will issue, sell, assign, transfer or otherwise dispose of any shares of, securities convertible into, or warrants, rights or options to subscribe for or purchase shares of, Capital Stock (other than preferred stock having no voting rights of any kind) of any Designated Subsidiary, nor will RRNAH or RenaissanceRe permit any Designated Subsidiary to issue (other than to RRNAH, RenaissanceRe or another Designated Subsidiary) any shares (other than director s qualifying shares) of, or securities convertible into, or warrants, rights or options to subscribe for or purchase shares of, Capital Stock (other than preferred stock having no voting rights of any kind) of any Designated Subsidiary, if, after giving effect to any such transaction and the issuance of the maximum number of shares issuable upon the conversion or exercise of all such convertible securities, warrants, rights or options, RRNAH or RenaissanceRe, as the case may be, would own, directly or indirectly, less than 80% of the shares of Capital Stock of such Designated Subsidiary (other than preferred stock having no voting rights of any kind); provided, however, that (1) any issuance, sale, assignment, transfer or other disposition by RRNAH or RenaissanceRe permitted under the Indenture may only be made for at least a fair market value consideration as determined by the board of directors of RRNAH or the board of directors of RenaissanceRe, as the case may be, pursuant to a resolution adopted in good faith and (2) the foregoing will not prohibit any such issuance or disposition of securities if required by any law or any regulation or order of any governmental or insurance regulatory authority.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, (1) RRNAH or RenaissanceRe, as the case may be, may merge or consolidate any Designated Subsidiary into or with another direct or indirect subsidiary of RenaissanceRe, the shares of Capital Stock of which RenaissanceRe owns at least 80%, and (2) RRNAH or RenaissanceRe, as the case may be, may, subject to the provisions described under the caption Description of the Debt Securities Consolidation, Amalgamation, Merger and Sale of Assets in the accompanying prospectus, sell, assign, transfer or otherwise dispose of the entire Capital Stock of any Designated Subsidiary at one time for at least a fair market value consideration as determined by the board of directors of RRNAH or the board of directors of RenaissanceRe, as the case may be, pursuant to a resolution adopted in good faith.

Compliance with the covenants described herein and any additional covenants with respect to the Notes may not be waived by the trustee in most instances unless the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of all outstanding Notes consent to such waiver.

Events of Default

Reference is made to the section entitled Description of the Debt Securities Events of Default in the accompanying prospectus, which provides a description of the events that constitute Events of Default with respect to the Notes. If an Event of Default with respect to the Notes occurs (other than an Event of Default resulting from certain events relating to the bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of RRNAH or RenaissanceRe) and is continuing, either the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of the Notes may declare the unpaid principal amount of the Notes, together with accrued interest thereon, to be due and payable immediately. An Event of Default resulting from certain events relating to the bankruptcy,

Table of Contents

insolvency or reorganization of RRNAH or RenaissanceRe will cause the principal amount of, and accrued interest on, the Notes to become immediately due and payable without any declaration or other act by the trustee or any holder of the Notes.

Delivery and Form

DTC

The Notes will be issued in the form of one or more securities in registered global form. Each global security will be deposited on the date of the closing of the sale of the Notes with, or on behalf of DTC, and registered in the name of Cede & Co., as DTC's nominee. So long as DTC or its nominee is the registered owner or holder of the Notes, DTC or such nominee will be considered the sole owner or holder of the Notes represented by such global securities for all purposes under the Indenture. No beneficial owner of an interest in the global securities will be able to transfer such interest except in accordance with DTC's procedures, as described below, in addition to those provided for under the Indenture with respect to the Notes.

DTC is a limited-purpose trust company created to hold securities for its participants and to facilitate the clearance and settlement of transactions in those securities between those participants through electronic book-entry changes in accounts of the participants. DTC's participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and other organizations. Access to DTC's system is also available to other entities such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a participant, either directly or indirectly (referred to as the indirect participants). Persons who are not participants may beneficially own securities held by or on behalf of DTC only through the participants or the indirect participants. The ownership interest and transfer of ownership interest of each actual purchaser of each security held by or on behalf of DTC is recorded on the records of the participants and indirect participants.

We expect that under procedures established by DTC, (1) upon deposit of the global securities, DTC will credit the accounts of participants designated by the underwriters with portions of the principal amount of the global securities and (2) ownership of such interests in the global securities will be shown on, and the transfer of ownership thereof will be effected only through, records maintained by DTC or its nominee (with respect to the participants) or by the participants and the indirect participants (with respect to other owners of beneficial interests in the global securities).

All interests in a global security may be subject to the procedures and requirements of DTC. The laws of some states require that some persons take physical delivery in certificated form of securities that they own. Consequently, the ability to transfer beneficial interests in a global security to those persons will be limited to that extent. Because DTC can act only on behalf of its participants, which in turn act on behalf of indirect participants and certain banks, the ability of owners of interests in the global securities to pledge their interests in a global security to persons or entities that do not participate in the DTC system, or otherwise take actions in respect of such interests, may be affected by the lack of a physical certificate evidencing such interests.

Except as described below, owners of interests in the global securities will not have Notes registered in their name, will not receive physical delivery of Notes in certificated form and will not be considered the registered owners or holders of Notes for any purpose.

Transfers between participants in DTC will be effected in accordance with DTC's procedures, and will be settled in same-day funds.

Payments on the global securities registered in the name of DTC or its nominee will be payable by the trustee to DTC in its capacity as the registered holder under the Indenture. Under the terms of the Indenture, the trustee will treat the persons in whose names the Notes, including the global securities, are registered, as the owners for the purpose of receiving those payments and for any and all other purposes.

Table of Contents

Consequently, neither the trustee nor any agent of the trustee has or will have any responsibility or liability for:

any aspect of DTC's records or any participant's or indirect participant's records relating to, or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in, the global security or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any of DTC's records or any participant's or indirect participant's records relating to the beneficial ownership interests in the global security, or

any other matter relating to the actions and practices of DTC or any of its participants or indirect participants.

DTC's current practice, upon receipt of any payment on securities such as the Notes, is to credit the accounts of the relevant participants with the payment on the payment date, in amounts proportionate to their respective holdings in principal amounts of beneficial interests in the relevant security as shown on the records of DTC unless DTC has reason to believe it will not receive payment on the payment date. Payments by the participants and the indirect participants to the beneficial owners of the Notes will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices and will be the responsibility of the participants or the indirect participants and will not be the responsibility of DTC, the trustee or us. Neither we nor the trustee will be liable for any delay by DTC or any of its participants in identifying the beneficial owners of the Notes, and we and the trustee may conclusively rely on and will be protected in relying on instructions from DTC or its nominee for all purposes.

DTC will take any action permitted to be taken by a holder of the Notes only at the direction of one or more participants to whose account with DTC interests in the global securities are credited and only in respect of such portion of the Notes as to which the participant or participants has or have given such direction. However, if there is an Event of Default, DTC reserves the right to exchange the global securities for Notes in certificated form and to distribute the Notes to its participants.

A global security is exchangeable for Notes in registered certificated form if:

DTC notifies us that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depository or if we determine that DTC is unable to continue as depository and we fail to appoint a successor depository within 90 days;

we determine that the Notes will no longer be represented by global securities and execute and deliver to the trustee instructions to such effect; or

there has occurred and is continuing an Event of Default under the Indenture.

DTC has advised us that it is:

- (1) a limited purpose trust company organized under the laws of the State of New York;
- (2) a banking organization within the meaning of the New York Banking Law;
- (3) a member of the Federal Reserve System;
- (4) a clearing corporation within the meaning of the Uniform Commercial Code; and
- (5) a Clearing Agency registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Exchange Act.

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form 424B5

Although DTC has agreed to the foregoing procedures in order to facilitate transfers of beneficial ownership interests in the global securities among participants of DTC, it is under no obligation to perform or continue to perform such procedures, and such procedures may be discontinued at any time. Neither we, nor the

S-16

Table of Contents

trustee nor any of their respective agents will have any responsibility for the performance by DTC or its participants or indirect participants of their respective obligations under the rules and procedures governing their operations, including maintaining, supervising or reviewing the records relating to, or payments made on account of, beneficial ownership interests in global securities.

Clearstream and Euroclear

Links have been established among DTC, Clearstream Banking, *société anonyme*, Luxembourg (Clearstream Banking SA) and Euroclear Bank, S.A./N.V. (Euroclear) (two international clearing systems that perform functions similar to those that DTC performs in the U.S.), to facilitate the initial issuance of book-entry securities and cross-market transfers of book-entry securities associated with secondary market trading.

Although DTC, Clearstream Banking SA and Euroclear have agreed to the procedures provided below in order to facilitate transfers, they are under no obligation to perform such procedures, and the procedures may be modified or discontinued at any time.

Clearstream Banking SA and Euroclear will record the ownership interests of their participants in much the same way as DTC, and DTC will record the aggregate ownership of each of the U.S. agents of Clearstream Banking SA and Euroclear, as participants in DTC.

When book-entry securities are to be transferred from the account of a DTC participant to the account of a Clearstream Banking SA participant or a Euroclear participant, the purchaser must send instructions to Clearstream Banking SA or Euroclear through a participant at least one business day prior to settlement. Clearstream Banking SA or Euroclear, as the case may be, will instruct its U.S. agent to receive book-entry securities against payment. After settlement, Clearstream Banking SA or Euroclear will credit its participant's account. Credit for the book-entry securities will appear on the next day (European time).

Because settlement is taking place during New York business hours, DTC participants can employ their usual procedures for sending book-entry securities to the relevant U.S. agent acting for the benefit of Clearstream Banking SA or Euroclear participants. The sale proceeds will be available to the DTC seller on the settlement date. Thus, to the DTC participant, a cross market transaction will settle no differently than a trade between two DTC participants.

When a Clearstream Banking SA or Euroclear participant wishes to transfer book-entry securities to a DTC participant, the seller must send instructions to Clearstream Banking SA or Euroclear through a participant at least one business day prior to settlement. In these cases, Clearstream Banking SA or Euroclear will instruct its U.S. agent to transfer the book-entry securities against payment. The payment will then be reflected in the account of the Clearstream Banking SA or Euroclear participant the following day, with the proceeds back-valued to the value date (which would be the preceding day, when settlement occurs in New York). If settlement is not completed on the intended value date (i.e., the trade fails), proceeds credited to the Clearstream Banking SA or Euroclear participant's account would instead be valued as of the actual settlement date.

The information in this section concerning DTC, Clearstream Banking SA and Euroclear and their respective book-entry systems has been obtained from sources that we believe to be reliable, but we have not independently determined the accuracy of such information. We will not have any responsibility for the performance by DTC, Clearstream Banking SA, Euroclear or any of their respective participants of their obligations under the rules and procedures governing their operations.

Table of Contents

CERTAIN UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following discussion is a summary of the material U.S. federal income tax consequences relevant to the purchase, ownership and disposition of the Notes, and does not purport to be a complete analysis of all potential tax effects. This discussion does not address all the U.S. federal income tax consequences that may be relevant to a holder in light of such holder's particular circumstances or to holders subject to special rules, such as financial institutions, banks, partnerships and other pass-through entities, U.S. expatriates, controlled foreign corporations, passive foreign investment companies, foreign personal holding companies, insurance companies, dealers in securities or currencies, traders in securities or currencies, U.S. Holders (defined below) whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar, tax-exempt organizations and persons holding the Notes as part of a straddle, hedge, conversion transaction or other integrated transaction. In addition, this discussion is limited to persons purchasing the Notes for cash pursuant to this prospectus supplement at the offering price on the cover page of this prospectus supplement and does not discuss the tax considerations applicable to subsequent purchasers of the Notes. Moreover, the effect of any applicable state, local or foreign tax laws is not discussed. The discussion deals only with Notes held as capital assets within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code).

The discussion is based on the provisions of the Code, U.S. Treasury regulations issued thereunder, rulings and pronouncements of the Internal Revenue Service (the IRS) and judicial decisions, all as in effect as of the date of this prospectus supplement and all of which are subject to change at any time. Any such change may be applied retroactively in a manner that could adversely affect a holder of the Notes.

We have not sought and will not seek any rulings from the IRS with respect to the matters discussed below. There can be no assurance that the IRS will not take a different position concerning the tax consequences of the purchase, ownership or disposition of the Notes or that any such position would not be sustained.

Prospective investors should consult their own tax advisors with regard to the application of the tax consequences discussed below to their particular situations as well as the application of any state, local, foreign or other tax laws, including gift and estate tax laws.

U.S. Holders

As used herein, U.S. Holder means a beneficial owner of the Notes who or that is for United States federal income tax purposes:

an individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States;

a corporation or other entity taxable as a corporation created or organized in or under the laws of the U.S. or any state thereof or the District of Columbia;

an estate, the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income tax regardless of its source;

a trust, if a U.S. court can exercise primary supervision over the administration of the trust and one or more U.S. persons can control all substantial trust decisions, or, if the trust was in existence on August 20, 1996, and has elected to continue to be treated as a U.S. person; or

a person whose worldwide income or gain is otherwise subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis.

A Non-U.S. Holder is any beneficial owner of the Notes who or that is not a U.S. Holder.

If a partnership (or other entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holds Notes, the tax treatment of a partner will generally depend on the status of the partner and the activities of the

Table of Contents

partnership. Each partner of a partnership (and member of any other entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holding Notes should consult its own tax advisor.

Interest

A U.S. Holder must generally include stated interest on a Note as ordinary income at the time such interest is received or accrued, in accordance with such U.S. Holder's method of accounting for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Sale or Other Taxable Disposition of the Notes

A U.S. Holder will generally recognize gain or loss on the sale, exchange, redemption, retirement or other taxable disposition of a Note equal to the difference between the amount realized upon the disposition of the Note and the U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in the Note. A U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in a Note generally will be the U.S. Holder's cost therefor. Such recognized gain or loss generally will be a capital gain or loss and, if the U.S. Holder is an individual that has held the Note for more than one year, such capital gain will generally be subject to tax at long-term capital gain rates (currently at a maximum rate of 15%, but scheduled to increase to 20% for any taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 2011). A U.S. Holder's ability to deduct capital losses may be limited.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, any amounts realized in connection with any sale, exchange, redemption, retirement or other taxable disposition to the extent attributable to accrued interest not previously included in income will be treated as ordinary interest income.

Non-U.S. Holders

Interest

Subject to the discussion of backup withholding below, interest paid to a Non-U.S. Holder will not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax, provided that:

such Non-U.S. Holder does not directly or indirectly, actually or constructively, own 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of our stock entitled to vote;

such Non-U.S. Holder is not a controlled foreign corporation that is related to us directly or constructively through stock ownership;

such Non-U.S. Holder is not a bank receiving interest on a loan entered into in the ordinary course of its trade or business;

such interest is not effectively connected with the conduct by the Non-U.S. Holder of a trade or business within the United States; and

we, or our paying agent, receive appropriate documentation (generally a completed IRS Form W-8BEN) establishing that the Non-U.S. Holder is not a U.S. person within the meaning of the Code.

A Non-U.S. Holder that does not qualify for exemption from withholding under the preceding paragraph generally will be subject to withholding of U.S. federal income tax at a 30% rate (or lower applicable treaty rate if the Non-U.S. Holder provides appropriate documentation) on payments of interest on the Notes, unless the interest is effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business within the United States and the Non-U.S. Holder provides appropriate documentation, generally a completed IRS Form W-8ECI.

If interest on the Notes is effectively connected with the conduct by a Non-U.S. Holder of a trade or business within the United States (or, if a tax treaty applies, is attributable to a permanent establishment in the

Table of Contents

United States), such interest will not be subject to the 30% withholding tax described above but will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis at the rate applicable to U.S. persons generally (and, with respect to corporate holders, may also be subject to a 30% or, if applicable, a lower treaty rate, branch profits tax). To claim the benefit of a treaty or to claim exemption from withholding because the interest income is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business, the Non-U.S. Holder must provide a properly executed Form W-8BEN or W-8ECL, as applicable, prior to the payment of interest.

Non-U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the application of withholding in their particular circumstances and the availability of and procedure for obtaining any exemption from, or reduction in, the rate of withholding.

Sale or Other Taxable Disposition of the Notes

Subject to the discussion of backup withholding below, any gain realized by a Non-U.S. Holder on the sale, exchange or redemption of a Note generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax, unless:

such gain is effectively connected with the conduct by such Non-U.S. Holder of a trade or business within the United States (and, if a tax treaty applies, is attributable to a permanent establishment in the United States);

the Non-U.S. Holder is an individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of disposition and certain other conditions are satisfied; or

the Non-U.S. Holder is subject to tax pursuant to the provisions of U.S. federal income tax law applicable to certain expatriates. If gain on the sale, exchange or redemption of a Note is effectively connected with the conduct by a beneficial owner of a Note that is a Non-U.S. Holder of a trade or business within the United States (and, if a tax treaty applies, is attributable to a permanent establishment in the United States), such gain will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis at the rate applicable to U.S. persons generally (and, with respect to corporate holders, may also be subject to branch profits tax at a 30% rate or, if applicable, a lower treaty rate). If gain is subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis in accordance with these rules, such payments will not be subject to withholding so long as the Non-U.S. Holder provides us or our paying agent with the appropriate documentation.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

Information returns may be filed with the IRS and backup withholding tax may be collected in connection with certain payments of principal and interest on a note and payments of the proceeds on the sale or exchange of a note by a holder. A U.S. Holder will not be subject to backup withholding tax if such U.S. Holder provides its taxpayer identification number to us or our paying agent and complies with certain certification procedures or otherwise establishes an exemption from backup withholding. Certain holders, including corporations, are generally not subject to backup withholding.

In addition, a Non-U.S. Holder may be subject to U.S. backup withholding tax on these payments unless such Non-U.S. Holder complies with certification procedures to establish that such Non-U.S. Holder is not a U.S. person. The certification procedures required by a Non-U.S. Holder to claim the exemption from withholding tax on interest (described above in *Non-U.S. Holders' Interest*) will generally satisfy the certification requirements necessary to avoid the backup withholding tax as well.

Backup withholding tax is not an additional tax. Rather, the U.S. federal income tax liability of persons subject to backup withholding tax will be offset by the amount of tax withheld. If backup withholding tax results in an overpayment of U.S. federal income taxes, a refund or credit may be obtained from the IRS, provided the required information is timely furnished.

Table of Contents**UNDERWRITING**

Banc of America Securities LLC and Citigroup Global Markets Inc. are acting as joint book-running managers and representatives to the underwriters named below. Subject to the terms and conditions stated in the underwriting agreement dated the date of this prospectus supplement, each underwriter named below has severally agreed to purchase, and RRNAH has agreed to sell to that underwriter, the principal amount of Notes set forth opposite the underwriter's name.

Underwriter	Principal Amount Of Notes
Banc of America Securities LLC	\$ 92,308,000
Citigroup Global Markets Inc.	92,308,000
Wells Fargo Securities, LLC	34,614,000
Barclays Capital Inc.	15,385,000
HSBC Securities (USA) Inc.	15,385,000
	\$ 250,000,000

The underwriting agreement provides that the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the Notes included in this offering are subject to approval of legal matters by counsel and to other conditions. The underwriters are obligated to purchase all the Notes if they purchase any of the Notes.

The underwriters propose to offer the Notes directly to the public at the public offering price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement and may offer the Notes to dealers at the public offering price less a concession not to exceed 0.40% of the principal amount of the Notes. The underwriters may allow, and dealers may reallow, a concession not to exceed 0.25% of the principal amount of the Notes on sales to other dealers. After the initial offering of the Notes to the public, the representatives may change the public offering price and concessions.

The following table shows the underwriting discounts and commissions that RRNAH is to pay to the underwriters in connection with this offering (expressed as a percentage of the principal amount of the Notes).

Per Note	Paid by RRNAH
	0.650%

RRNAH and RenaissanceRe have agreed with the underwriters not to dispose of or hedge any debt securities of RRNAH on or prior to the completion of this offering without the prior written consent of Banc of America Securities LLC and Citigroup Global Markets Inc.

In connection with the offering, the underwriters may purchase and sell Notes in the open market. Purchases and sales in the open market may include short sales, purchases to cover short positions and stabilizing purchases.

Short sales involve secondary market sales by the underwriters of a greater number of Notes than they are required to purchase in the offering.

Covering transactions involve purchases of Notes in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover short positions.

Stabilizing transactions involve bids to purchase Notes so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum.

Table of Contents

Purchases to cover short positions and stabilizing purchases, as well as other purchases by the underwriters for their own accounts, may have the effect of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the Notes. They may also cause the price of the Notes to be higher than the price that would otherwise exist in the open market in the absence of these transactions. The underwriters may conduct these transactions in the over-the-counter market or otherwise. If the underwriters commence any of these transactions, they may discontinue them at any time.

We estimate that the total expenses of this offering will be approximately \$900,000.

The underwriters have performed commercial banking, investment banking and advisory services for RenaissanceRe and/or its affiliates from time to time for which they have received customary fees and reimbursement of expenses. The underwriters may, from time to time, engage in transactions with and perform services for us and our affiliates in the ordinary course of their business for which they may receive customary fees and reimbursement of expenses. For example, Bank of America, N.A., an affiliate of Banc of America Securities LLC, is a lender and serves as administrative agent under RenaissanceRe's \$345 million committed revolving credit agreement and is also the issuer under separate letter of credit facilities with certain subsidiaries of RenaissanceRe; and Citigroup Global Markets Inc. served as sole lead arranger, book manager and co-syndication agent, and its affiliate Citibank, N.A. serves as administrative agent for the lenders, with respect to DaVinciRe Holdings Ltd.'s \$200 million revolving credit facility.

Notice to Prospective Investors in the European Economic Area

In relation to each member state of the European Economic Area that has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a relevant member state), with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that relevant member state (the relevant implementation date), an offer of Notes described in this prospectus supplement may not be made to the public in that relevant member state prior to the publication of a prospectus in relation to the Notes that has been approved by the competent authority in that relevant member state or, where appropriate, approved in another relevant member state and notified to the competent authority in that relevant member state, all in accordance with the Prospectus Directive, except that, with effect from and including the relevant implementation date, an offer of securities may be offered to the public in that relevant member state at any time:

to any legal entity that is authorized or regulated to operate in the financial markets or, if not so authorized or regulated, whose corporate purpose is solely to invest in securities;

to any legal entity that has two or more of (1) an average of at least 250 employees during the last financial year; (2) a total balance sheet of more than 43,000,000 and (3) an annual net turnover of more than 50,000,000, as shown in its last annual or consolidated accounts;

to fewer than 100 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined below) subject to obtaining the prior consent of the representatives for any such offer; or

in any other circumstances that do not require the publication of a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive. provided, that no such offer of Notes referred to above shall require the publication of a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive or supplementing of a prospectus pursuant to Article 16 of the Prospectus Directive.

No action has been undertaken or will be undertaken to make an offer to the public of the Notes requiring the publication of a prospectus in any relevant member state.

Table of Contents

Each purchaser of Notes described in this prospectus supplement located within a relevant member state will be deemed to have represented, acknowledged and agreed that it is a qualified investor within the meaning of Article 2(1)(e) of the Prospectus Directive.

For purposes of this provision, the expression an offer to the public in relation to the Notes in any relevant member state means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the Notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the Notes, as the expression may be varied in that member state by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that member state, and the expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC and includes any relevant implementing measure in each relevant member state.

The sellers of the Notes have not authorized and do not authorize the making of any offer of Notes through any financial intermediary on their behalf, other than offers made by the underwriters with a view to the final placement of the Notes as contemplated in this prospectus supplement. Accordingly, no purchaser of the Notes, other than the underwriters, is authorized to make any further offer of the Notes on behalf of the sellers or the underwriters.

These restrictions concerning relevant member states are in addition to any other applicable restrictions in the member states that have implemented the Prospectus Directive.

Notice to Prospective Investors in the United Kingdom

This prospectus supplement is only being distributed to, and is only directed at, persons in the United Kingdom who are qualified investors (within the meaning of Article 2(1)(e) of the Prospectus Directive) and who are in addition: (i) investment professionals falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005/1529 (the Order); or (ii) high net worth entities as defined within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Order and/or other persons to whom it may lawfully be communicated (as referred to in Article 49(2)(e) of the Order), all such persons together being referred to as relevant persons. This prospectus supplement and its contents are confidential and should not be distributed, published or reproduced (in whole or in part) or disclosed by recipients to any other persons in the United Kingdom. Any person in the United Kingdom that is not a relevant person should not act or rely on this document or any of its contents.

Notice to Prospective Investors in France

Neither this prospectus supplement nor any other offering material relating to the Notes described in this prospectus supplement has been submitted to the clearance procedures of the *Autorité des marchés financiers* or of the competent authority of another member state of the European Economic Area and notified to the *Autorité des marchés financiers*. The Notes have not been offered or sold and will not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, to the public in France. Neither this prospectus supplement nor any other offering material relating to the Notes has been or will be:

released, issued, distributed or caused to be released, issued or distributed to the public in France; or

used in connection with any offer for subscription or sale of the Notes to the public in France.

Such offers, sales and distributions will be made in France only:

to qualified investors (*investisseurs qualifiés*) and/or to a restricted circle of investors (*cercle restreint d'investisseurs*), in each case investing for their own account, all as defined in, and in accordance with, Articles L.411-2, D.411-1, D.411-2, D.734-1, D.744-1, D.754-1 and D.764-1 of the French *Code monétaire et financier*;

Table of Contents

to investment services providers authorized to engage in portfolio management on behalf of third parties in accordance with Article L.411-2 of the French *Code monétaire et financier*; or

in a transaction that, in accordance with article L.411-2-II 1 or 2 of the French *Code monétaire et financier* and article 211-2 of the General Regulations (*Règlement Général*) of the *Autorité des Marchés Financiers*, does not constitute a public offer (*offre au public*).

The Notes may be resold directly or indirectly, only in compliance with Articles L.411-1, L.411-2, L.412-1 and L.621-8 through L.621-8-3 of the French *Code monétaire et financier*.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in electronic format may be made available on the websites maintained by one or more of the underwriters. The representatives may agree to allocate a number of the Notes to underwriters for sale to their online brokerage account holders. The representatives will allocate Notes to underwriters that may make Internet distributions on the same basis as other allocations. In addition, the Notes may be sold by the underwriters to securities dealers who resell the Notes to online brokerage account holders.

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

We expect that delivery of the Notes will be made against payment therefor on or about March 17, 2010.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

Certain legal matters with respect to United States, New York and Delaware law with respect to the validity of the offered securities will be passed upon for us by Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP, New York, New York. Certain legal matters with respect to Bermuda law will be passed upon for us by Conyers Dill & Pearman, Hamilton, Bermuda. Certain legal matters will be passed upon for the underwriters by Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP, New York, New York. Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP has in the past performed, and continues to perform, legal services for us and our affiliates.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd. appearing in RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd.'s Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2009 (including schedules appearing therein), and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009 have been audited by Ernst & Young Ltd., independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their reports thereon, included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such reports given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") a registration statement on Form S-3 under the Securities Act relating to our debt securities. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are a part of the registration statement, but the registration statement also contains additional information and exhibits.

RenaissanceRe is subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"). Accordingly, RenaissanceRe files annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other reports with the Commission. You can read and copy the registration statement and the reports that we file with the Commission at the Commission's public reference rooms at Judiciary Plaza, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Copies of such material can also be obtained from the Public Reference Section of the Commission, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549, at prescribed rates.

The Commission allows us to incorporate by reference the information set forth in certain documents we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Any statement contained in a document which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is automatically updated and superseded if information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, or information that we later file with the Commission, modifies or replaces this information. All documents subsequently filed by RenaissanceRe or RRNAH pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act prior to the termination of this offering shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. In addition, we incorporate by reference the following documents filed prior to the date of this prospectus supplement:

RenaissanceRe's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, filed with the Commission on February 19, 2010;

RenaissanceRe's Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A, filed with the Commission on April 9, 2009;

RenaissanceRe's Definitive Additional Materials on Schedule 14A, filed with the Commission on May 13, 2009; and

Table of Contents

RenaissanceRe's Current Reports on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on June 15, 2009, January 14, 2010 and March 11, 2010.

In no event, however, will any of the information that we furnish under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of any Current Report on Form 8-K that we may file from time to time with the Commission be incorporated by reference into, or otherwise be included in, this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

To receive a free copy of any of the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus (other than exhibits), call or write us at the following address: RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd., Attn: Stephen H. Weinstein, Secretary, P.O. Box HM 2527, Hamilton, HMGX, Bermuda, telephone (441) 295-4513.

Our filings with the Commission are also available from the Commission's Web Site at <http://www.sec.gov>. Please call the Commission's toll-free telephone number at 1-800-SEC-0330 if you need further information about the operation of the Commission's public reference rooms.

RenaissanceRe's common shares, Series B Preference Shares, Series C Preference Shares and Series D Preference Shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange and RenaissanceRe's reports can also be inspected at their offices at 20 Broad Street, 17th Floor, New York, New York 10005. For information on obtaining copies of RenaissanceRe's public filings at the New York Stock Exchange, please call (212) 656-5060.

We maintain a website at <http://www.renre.com>. We make available, free of charge through our website, our financial information, including the information contained in our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish such material to, the Commission. The information on our website is not incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

\$750,000,000

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

**COMMON SHARES, PREFERENCE SHARES, DEPOSITARY SHARES, DEBT
SECURITIES, WARRANTS TO PURCHASE COMMON SHARES, WARRANTS TO
PURCHASE PREFERENCE SHARES, WARRANTS TO PURCHASE DEBT
SECURITIES, SHARE PURCHASE CONTRACTS AND SHARE PURCHASE UNITS**

RENAISSANCERE FINANCE, INC.

GLENCOE U.S. HOLDINGS INC.

DEBT SECURITIES

**FULLY AND UNCONDITIONALLY GUARANTEED TO
THE EXTENT PROVIDED IN THIS PROSPECTUS**

BY

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

RENAISSANCERE CAPITAL TRUST II

PREFERRED SECURITIES

**FULLY AND UNCONDITIONALLY GUARANTEED TO
THE EXTENT PROVIDED IN THIS PROSPECTUS**

BY

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

We (and RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH and the Capital Trust, as indicated) may offer and sell from time to time:

common shares;

preference shares;

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form 424B5

depository shares representing preference shares or common shares;

senior, subordinated or junior subordinated debt securities;

warrants to purchase common shares, preference shares or debt securities;

senior, subordinated or junior subordinated debt securities of RenaissanceRe Finance which we will guarantee;

senior, subordinated or junior subordinated debt securities of GUSH which we will guarantee;

preferred securities of the Capital Trust which we will guarantee;

share purchase contracts and share purchase units; and

units which may consist of any combination of the securities listed above.

We, RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH or the Capital Trust, as applicable, will provide the specific terms and initial public offering prices of these securities in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and any supplement carefully before you invest. None of RenaissanceRe, RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH or the Capital Trust will use this prospectus to confirm sales of any securities unless it is attached to a prospectus supplement.

We, RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH and the Capital Trust may sell these securities to or through underwriters and also to other purchasers or through agents. The names of any underwriters or agents will be stated in an accompanying prospectus supplement.

We, RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH and the Capital Trust may sell any combination of these securities in one or more offerings up to a total dollar amount of \$750,000,000.

Our common shares, Series B Preference Shares, Series C Preference Shares and Series D Preference Shares are traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbols RNR, RNRPRB, RNRPRC, and RNRPRD, respectively. Other than our common shares, Series B Preference Shares, Series C Preference Shares and our Series D Preference Shares, there is no public trading market for the other securities that may be offered hereby.

INVESTING IN THESE SECURITIES INVOLVES CERTAIN RISKS. SEE RISK FACTORS ON PAGE 6.

NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NOR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED OF THESE SECURITIES OR DETERMINED IF THIS PROSPECTUS IS TRUTHFUL OR COMPLETE. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

This prospectus may not be used to consummate sales of offered securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

The date of this prospectus is June 7, 2007.

Table of Contents

Consent under the Exchange Control Act 1972 (and its related regulations) has been obtained from the Bermuda Monetary Authority for the issue and transfer of the common shares to and between non-residents of Bermuda for exchange control purposes provided our shares remain listed on an appointed stock exchange, which includes the New York Stock Exchange. This prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplements will be filed with the Registrar of Companies in Bermuda in accordance with Bermuda law. In granting such consent and in accepting this prospectus for filing, neither the Bermuda Monetary Authority nor the Registrar of Companies in Bermuda accepts any responsibility for our financial soundness or the correctness of any of the statements made or opinions expressed in this prospectus.

Except as expressly provided in an underwriting agreement, no offered securities may be offered or sold in Bermuda and offers may only be accepted from persons resident in Bermuda, for Bermuda exchange control purposes, where such offers have been delivered outside of Bermuda. Persons resident in Bermuda, for Bermuda exchange control purposes, may require the prior approval of the Bermuda Monetary Authority in order to acquire any offered securities.

In this prospectus, references to RenaissanceRe, we, us and our refer to RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd., references to RenaissanceRe Finance refer to RenaissanceRe Finance, Inc., references to GUSH refer to Glencoe U.S. Holdings Inc. and references to the Capital Trust refer to RenaissanceRe Capital Trust II. In addition, references in this prospectus to dollar and \$ are to United States currency, and the terms United States and U.S. mean the United States of America, its states, its territories, its possessions and all areas subject to its jurisdiction.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	1
<u>RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.</u>	2
<u>RENAISSANCERE FINANCE</u>	3
<u>GUSH</u>	3
<u>THE CAPITAL TRUST</u>	3
<u>GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE OFFERED SECURITIES</u>	4
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERENCE SHARE DIVIDENDS OF RENAISSANCERE</u>	5
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES OF GUSH</u>	5
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	6
<u>CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	23
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	25
<u>DESCRIPTION OF OUR CAPITAL SHARES</u>	26
<u>DESCRIPTION OF THE DEPOSITARY SHARES</u>	38
<u>DESCRIPTION OF THE DEBT SECURITIES</u>	40
<u>CERTAIN PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO SUBORDINATED DEBT SECURITIES</u>	54
<u>CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE JUNIOR SUBORDINATED DEBT SECURITIES ISSUED TO THE CAPITAL TRUST</u>	59
<u>DESCRIPTION OF THE DEBT SECURITIES GUARANTEES</u>	61
<u>INFORMATION CONCERNING THE TRUSTEE</u>	64
<u>DESCRIPTION OF THE WARRANTS TO PURCHASE COMMON SHARES OR PREFERENCE SHARES</u>	64
<u>DESCRIPTION OF THE WARRANTS TO PURCHASE DEBT SECURITIES</u>	65
<u>DESCRIPTION OF THE TRUST PREFERRED SECURITIES</u>	66
<u>DESCRIPTION OF THE TRUST PREFERRED SECURITIES GUARANTEE</u>	78
<u>DESCRIPTION OF THE SHARE PURCHASE CONTRACTS AND THE SHARE PURCHASE UNITS</u>	82
<u>DESCRIPTION OF UNITS</u>	83
<u>CERTAIN TAX CONSIDERATIONS</u>	84
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	91
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	94
<u>INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE</u>	95
<u>LEGAL OPINIONS</u>	96
<u>EXPERTS</u>	96
<u>ENFORCEMENT OF CIVIL LIABILITIES UNDER UNITED STATES FEDERAL SECURITIES LAWS</u>	96

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we, RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH and the Capital Trust have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the Commission) using a shelf registration process, relating to the common shares, preference shares, depositary shares, debt securities, warrants to purchase common shares, preference shares or debt securities, share purchase contracts, share purchase units, units, preferred securities and guarantees described in this prospectus. This means:

we (and RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH and the Capital Trust, as indicated) may issue any combination of securities covered by this prospectus from time to time, up to a total initial offering price of \$750,000,000;

we, RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH or the Capital Trust, as the case may be, will provide a prospectus supplement each time these securities are offered pursuant to this prospectus; and

the prospectus supplement will provide specific information about the terms of that offering and also may add, update or change information contained in this prospectus.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we (and RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH and the Capital Trust, as indicated) may offer. This prospectus does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement as permitted by the rules and regulations of the Commission. For additional information regarding us, RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH, the Capital Trust and the offered securities, please refer to the registration statement. Each time we, RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH or the Capital Trust sell securities, we, RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH or the Capital Trust, as applicable, will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information described under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

Table of Contents

RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD.

OVERVIEW

RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd. is a Bermuda company with its registered and principal executive offices located at Renaissance House, 8-20 East Broadway, Pembroke HM 19 Bermuda, telephone (441) 295-4513. We were established in Bermuda in 1993 to write principally property catastrophe reinsurance, and are today a leading global provider of reinsurance and insurance. Through our operating subsidiaries, we seek to obtain a portfolio of reinsurance, insurance and financial risks in each of our businesses that are significantly better than the market average and produce an attractive return on equity. Overall, our strategy focuses on superior risk selection, active capital management, superior utilization of risk management and information systems, the development and enhancement of a high performance and ethical culture and our commitment to our clients and joint venture partners. We provide value to our clients in the form of financial security, innovative products, and responsive service. We are known as a leader in paying valid reinsurance claims promptly. We measure our financial success through long-term growth in tangible book value per common share plus accumulated dividends, which we believe is the most appropriate measure of the performance of our businesses and believe we have delivered superior performance in respect of the measure in the past.

Our core products include property catastrophe reinsurance, which we write through our principal operating subsidiary Renaissance Reinsurance and joint ventures, principally DaVinci Reinsurance Ltd. (DaVinci), Top Layer Reinsurance Ltd. (Top Layer Re) and Starbound Reinsurance Ltd (Renaissance Reinsurance); specialty reinsurance risks through Renaissance Reinsurance Ltd. and DaVinci; and primary insurance and quota share reinsurance, which we write through the operating subsidiaries of Glencoe Group Holdings Ltd.. We believe that we are one of the world's leading providers of property catastrophe reinsurance. We also believe we have a strong position in certain specialty reinsurance lines of business and are building a unique franchise in the U.S. program business. Our reinsurance and insurance products are principally distributed through intermediaries, with whom we seek to cultivate strong relationships.

We conduct our business through two reportable segments, Reinsurance and Individual Risk. For the year ended December 31, 2006, our Reinsurance and Individual Risk segments accounted for approximately 64.5% and 35.5%, respectively, of our total consolidated gross premiums written.

We pursue a number of other opportunities through our Ventures unit, which has responsibility for managing our joint venture relationships, executing customized reinsurance transactions to assume or cede risk and managing certain investments directed at classes of risk other than catastrophe reinsurance.

From time to time we consider opportunistic diversification into new ventures, either through organic growth, the formation of new joint ventures, or the acquisition of other companies or books of business of other companies. This potential diversification includes opportunities to write targeted, additional classes of risk-exposed business, both directly for our own account and through possible new joint venture opportunities. We also regularly evaluate opportunities to grow our business by utilizing our skills, capabilities, proprietary technology and relationships to expand into other risk-related coverages, services and products. Accordingly, we regularly review strategic opportunities and periodically engage in discussions regarding possible transactions, although there can be no assurance that we will complete any such transactions or that any such transaction would contribute materially to our results of operations or financial condition.

OTHER INFORMATION

For further information regarding RenaissanceRe, including financial information, you should refer to our recent filings with the Commission.

We conduct our operations through wholly owned subsidiaries and joint ventures in Bermuda, the United States and Europe. Our registered and principal executive offices are located at Renaissance House, 8-20 East Broadway, Pembroke HM 19 Bermuda, and our telephone number is (441) 295-4513.

Table of Contents

RENAISSANCERE FINANCE

RenaissanceRe Finance Inc. (RenaissanceRe Finance) is a Delaware corporation, with its principal executive offices located at c/o Glencoe U.S. Holdings Inc., 5080 Spectrum Drive, Suite 900, East Addison, Texas, 75001. The telephone number of RenaissanceRe Finance is (972) 664-7110. RenaissanceRe Finance is a wholly owned subsidiary of RenaissanceRe that was created solely for the purpose of issuing from time to time senior, subordinated debt securities and junior subordinated debt securities. Such securities may be issued directly to investors, or may be issued directly to a capital trust.

GUSH

Glencoe U.S. Holdings Inc. (GUSH) is a Delaware corporation, with its principal executive officers at 5080 Spectrum Drive, Suite 900, East Addison, Texas, 75001. The telephone number of GUSH is (972) 664-7110. GUSH principally serves as the holding company for the U.S.-based operating subsidiaries of the Glencoe Group.

THE CAPITAL TRUST

The Capital Trust is a statutory business trust created under Delaware law pursuant to (1) a trust agreement executed by us, as sponsor of the Capital Trust, and the Capital Trustees for the Capital Trust and (2) the filing of a certificate of trust with the Delaware Secretary of State on January 5, 2001. The trust agreement will be amended and restated in its entirety substantially in the form filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. The restated trust agreement will be qualified as an indenture under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended.

The Capital Trust exists for the exclusive purposes of:

issuing and selling the preferred securities and common securities that represent undivided beneficial interests in the assets of the Capital Trust;

using the gross proceeds from the sale of the preferred securities and common securities to acquire a particular series of junior subordinated debt securities that may be issued by us, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH; and

engaging in only those other activities necessary or incidental to the issuance and sale of the preferred securities and common securities.

We will directly or indirectly own all of the common securities of the Capital Trust. The common securities of the Capital Trust will rank equally, and payments will be made thereon pro rata, with the preferred securities of the Capital Trust, except that, if an event of default under the restated trust agreement has occurred and is continuing, the rights of the holders of the common securities to payment in respect of distributions and payments upon liquidation, redemption and otherwise will be subordinated to the rights of the holders of the preferred securities. Unless otherwise disclosed in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will, directly or indirectly, acquire common securities in an aggregate liquidation amount equal to at least 3% of the total capital of the Capital Trust. The Capital Trust is a legally separate entity.

Unless otherwise disclosed in the related prospectus supplement, the Capital Trust will have a term of approximately 55 years, but may dissolve earlier as provided in the restated trust agreement of the Capital Trust. Unless otherwise disclosed in the applicable prospectus supplement, the Capital Trust's business and affairs will be conducted by the trustees (the Capital Trustees) appointed by us, as the direct or indirect holder of all of the common securities. The holder of the common securities will be entitled to appoint, remove or replace any of, or increase or reduce the number of, the Capital Trustees of the Capital Trust. The duties and obligations of the Capital Trustees of the Capital Trust will be governed by the restated trust agreement of the Capital Trust.

Unless otherwise disclosed in the related prospectus supplement, two of the Capital Trustees (the Administrative Trustees) of the Capital Trust will be persons who are our employees or employees or officers of companies affiliated with us. One Capital Trustee of the Capital Trust will be a financial

Table of Contents

institution (the Property Trustee) that is not affiliated with us and has a minimum amount of combined capital and surplus of not less than \$50,000,000, which shall act as property trustee and as indenture trustee for the purposes of compliance with the provisions of the Trust Indenture Act, pursuant to the terms set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. In addition, one Capital Trustee of the Capital Trust (which may be the Property Trustee, if it otherwise meets the requirements of applicable law) will have its principal place of business or reside in the State of Delaware (the Delaware Trustee). We will pay all fees and expenses related to the Capital Trust and the offering of preferred securities and common securities.

The office of the Delaware Trustee for the Capital Trust in the State of Delaware is located at c/o Deutsche Bank Trust Company Delaware, 1011 Centre Road, Suite 200, Wilmington, Delaware 19805-1266. The principal executive office for the Capital Trust is located at c/o Glencoe U.S. Holdings Inc., 5080 Spectrum Drive, Suite 900 East, Addison, Texas 75001. The telephone number of the Capital Trust is (972) 664-7110.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE OFFERED SECURITIES

We may from time to time offer under this prospectus, separately or together:

common shares, which we would expect to list on the New York Stock Exchange;

preference shares, the terms and series of which would be described in the related prospectus supplement;

depository shares, each representing a fraction of a share of common shares or a particular series of preference shares, which will be deposited under a deposit agreement among us, a depository selected by us and the holders of the depository receipts;

senior debt securities;

subordinated and junior subordinated debt securities which will be subordinated in right of payment to our senior indebtedness;

warrants to purchase common shares and warrants to purchase preference shares, which will be evidenced by share warrant certificates and may be issued under the share warrant agreement independently or together with any other securities offered by any prospectus supplement and may be attached to or separate from such other offered securities;

warrants to purchase debt securities, which will be evidenced by debt warrant certificates and may be issued under the debt warrant agreement independently or together with any other securities offered by any prospectus supplement and may be attached to or separate from such other offered securities;

share purchase contracts obligating holders to purchase from us a specified number of common shares or preference shares at a future date or dates;

share purchase units, consisting of a share purchase contract and, as security for the holder's obligation to purchase common shares or preference shares under the share purchase contract, any of (1) our debt securities, (2) debt obligations of third parties, including U.S. Treasury securities, or (3) preferred securities of the Capital Trust; and

units which may consist of any combination of the securities listed above.

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form 424B5

RenaissanceRe Finance may from time to time offer senior and subordinated debt securities and junior subordinated debt securities to a capital trust, all of which will be fully and unconditionally guaranteed by us to the extent described in this prospectus.

GUSH may from time to time offer senior and subordinated debt securities and junior subordinated debt securities to a capital trust, all of which will be fully and unconditionally guaranteed by us to the extent described in this prospectus.

The Capital Trust may offer preferred securities representing undivided beneficial interests in its assets, which will be fully and unconditionally guaranteed to the extent described in this prospectus by us.

The aggregate initial offering price of these offered securities will not exceed \$750,000,000.

Table of Contents**RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES****AND PREFERENCE SHARE DIVIDENDS OF RENAISSANCERE**

For purposes of computing the following ratios of RenaissanceRe, earnings consist of pre-tax income from continuing operations before adjustment for minority interest in consolidated subsidiaries or undistributed income from equity method investees, plus fixed charges to the extent that these charges are included in the determination of earnings. Fixed charges consist of interest costs plus preference dividends and one-third of minimum rental payments under operating leases (estimated by our management to be the interest factor of these rentals).

	FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,					
	THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges	18.86x	24.61x	(12.97)x	5.50x	27.59x	19.82x
Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preference Share Dividends	9.92x	12.88x	(5.98)x	2.54x	16.08x	12.57x

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES OF GUSH

For purposes of computing the following ratios of GUSH, earnings consist of pre-tax income from continuing operations before adjustment for minority interest in consolidated subsidiaries or undistributed income from equity method investees, plus fixed charges to the extent that these charges are included in the determination of earnings. Fixed charges consist of interest costs plus preference dividends and one-third of minimum rental payments under operating leases (estimated by our management to be the interest factor of these rentals).

	FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,					
	THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges	42.88x	74.33x	67.19x	(83.84)x	(32.32)x	(16.79)x

Neither RenaissanceRe Finance nor the Capital Trust had any operations during the periods set forth above.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Before you invest in our securities, you should carefully consider the risks involved. In addition, we may include additional risk factors in a prospectus supplement to the extent there are additional risks related to the securities offered by that prospectus supplement. Accordingly, you should carefully consider the following risk factors and any additional risk factors included in the relevant prospectus supplement:

RISKS RELATED TO OUR COMPANY

Our exposure to catastrophic events could cause our financial results to vary significantly from one period to the next, and the frequency and severity of catastrophic events could exceed our estimates.

Our largest product based on total gross premiums written is property catastrophe reinsurance. We also sell lines of specialty reinsurance and certain Individual Risk products that are exposed to catastrophe risk. We therefore have a large overall exposure to natural and man-made disasters, such as earthquakes, hurricanes, tsunamis, winter storms, freezes, floods, fires, tornadoes and other natural or man-made disasters, such as acts of terrorism. As a result, our operating results have historically been, and we expect will continue to be, significantly affected by relatively few events of large magnitude.

We expect claims from catastrophic events to cause substantial volatility in our financial results from time to time for any fiscal quarter or year, moreover, catastrophic claims could adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. Our ability to write new business could also be affected. We believe that increases in the value and geographic concentration of insured property and the effects of inflation will continue to increase the severity of claims from catastrophic events in the future.

From time to time, we may have greater exposures in some geographic areas than our overall share of the worldwide market would suggest. Accordingly, if catastrophes were to occur in these areas, we could experience relatively more severe net negative impacts than our competitors.

During 2005 we experienced \$891.9 million of net negative impact from hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma. Principally as a result of these hurricane losses in 2005, we recorded a net loss attributable to common shareholders of \$281.4 million. In 2004 we recorded \$570.2 million of net negative impact from hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne. While 2006 was not characterized by land falling windstorm events resulting in material industry losses, we believe, and recent scientific studies have indicated, that the frequency of hurricanes has increased and may further increase in the future relative to the historical experience over the past 100 years. We have adjusted our risk management models to reflect our judgment of how to interpret these studies. However, it is possible that, even after these adjustments, we have underestimated the frequency or severity of hurricanes or other catastrophes.

We may fail to execute our strategy in our newer lines of business, which would impair our future financial results.

Historically, our principal product has been property catastrophe reinsurance. Our specialty reinsurance and Individual Risk lines of business present us with new and expanded challenges and risks which we may not manage successfully. We are not as experienced in these lines of business as we are in property catastrophe reinsurance; for example, we are continuing to expand our claims management function to support these new lines of business. Businesses in early stages of development present substantial business, financial and operational risks and may suffer significant losses. For example, in our newer businesses we are seeking to develop client and customer relationships, build operating procedures, hire staff, develop and install management information and other systems, as well as taking numerous other steps to implement our strategies. Our specialty reinsurance and Individual Risk businesses also require us to develop new expertise in areas such as contract and policy wordings and claims management. If we fail to continue to develop the necessary infrastructure, or otherwise fail to execute our strategy, our results from these new lines of business will likely suffer, perhaps substantially, and our future financial results may be adversely affected.

Table of Contents

Our expansion into these newer lines of business has placed increased demands on our financial, managerial and human resources. For example, we may need to attract additional professionals to, or expand our facilities in, Bermuda, a small jurisdiction with limited resources. To the extent we are unable to attract additional professionals, our financial, managerial and human resources may be strained. The growth in our staff and infrastructure also creates more managerial responsibilities for our current senior executives, potentially diverting their attention from the underwriting and business origination functions for which they are also responsible. Our future profitability depends in part on our ability to further develop our resources and effectively manage this expansion. Our inability to achieve such development or effectively manage this expansion may impair our future financial results.

In general, our techniques for evaluating catastrophe risk are much better developed than those for other classes of risk. In addition, our models are not currently structured to seek to predict long-term climate changes, such as those that might be caused by the possible trend toward significant global warming. Moreover, our models and databases may not adequately address the emergence of a variety of matters which might be deemed to impact certain of our coverages, such as the likelihood or potential severity of insured losses from an avian flu pandemic. Accordingly, our models may understate the exposures we are assuming and our financial results may be adversely impacted, perhaps significantly.

Our utilization of brokers, program managers and other third parties to support our business exposes us to operational and financial risks.

Our Individual Risk operations rely on program managers, and other agents and brokers participating in our programs, to produce and service a substantial portion of our operations in this segment. In these arrangements, we typically grant the program manager the right to bind us to newly issued and renewal insurance policies, subject to underwriting guidelines we provide and other contractual restrictions and obligations. Should our program managers issue policies that contravene these guidelines, restrictions or obligations, we could nonetheless be deemed liable for such policies. Although we would intend to resist claims that exceed or expand on our underwriting intention, it is possible that we would not prevail in such an action, or that our program manager would be unable to substantially indemnify us for their contractual breach. We also rely on our program managers, third party administrators, or other third parties we retain, to collect premiums and to pay valid claims. We could also be exposed to the program manager's or their producer's operational risk, for example, but not limited to, contract wording errors, technological and staffing deficiencies and inadequate disaster recovery plans.

We could also be exposed to potential liabilities relating to the claims practices of the third-party administrators we have retained to manage substantially all of the claims activity that we expect to arise in our Individual Risk operations. Although we have implemented monitoring and other oversight protocols, we cannot assure you that these measures will be sufficient to mitigate all of these exposures.

We are also subject to the risk that our successful program managers will not renew their programs with us. Although our contracts are generally not for defined terms, generally, either party can cancel the contract in a relatively short period of time. While we believe our arrangements offer numerous benefits to our program participants, we cannot assure you we will retain the programs that produce profitable business or that our insureds will renew with us. Failure to retain or replace the program managers, or the program manager's failure to retain or replace their producers, would impair our ability to execute our growth strategy, and our financial results could be adversely affected.

With respect to our Reinsurance operations we do not separately evaluate each of the individual risks assumed under our reinsurance contracts and, accordingly, like other reinsurers, are heavily dependent on the original underwriting decisions made by our ceding companies. We are therefore subject to the risk that our clients may not have adequately evaluated the risks to be reinsured, or that the premiums ceded to us will not adequately compensate us for the risks we assume.

Table of Contents

A decline in the ratings assigned to our financial strength may adversely impact our business.

Third party rating agencies assess and rate the financial strength of reinsurers and insurers, such as Renaissance Reinsurance, certain operating subsidiaries of Glencoe Group, Top Layer Re, a joint venture which we indirectly own 50% of, and DaVinci. These ratings are based upon criteria established by the rating agencies. Periodically the rating agencies evaluate us to confirm that we continue to meet the criteria of the ratings previously assigned to us. The financial strength ratings assigned by rating agencies to reinsurance or insurance companies are based upon factors relevant to policyholders and are not directed toward the protection of investors. Renaissance Reinsurance is rated A by A.M. Best, A+ by Standard & Poor's and A2 by Moody's Investor Services. Top Layer Re is rated AA by Standard & Poor's and A+ by A.M. Best. Glencoe Group's insurance subsidiaries are rated A- by A.M. Best. DaVinci is rated A by each of A.M. Best and Standard & Poor's. In October 2006, A.M. Best affirmed the financial strength ratings and the issuer credit ratings of the operating subsidiaries of RenaissanceRe. These affirmations include the financial strength ratings of A and the issuer credit ratings of a of Renaissance Reinsurance, Renaissance Reinsurance of Europe and DaVinci; and the financial strength ratings of A- and the issuer credit ratings of a- of the operating subsidiaries of Glencoe Group. At such time, all of the ratings affirmed by A.M. Best were removed from under review and assigned a stable outlook. On December 11, 2006, A.M. Best raised its issuer credit ratings of Renaissance Reinsurance and Renaissance Reinsurance of Europe to a+ from a and affirmed the financial strength ratings of A for these two subsidiaries, and the outlook for the ratings of Renaissance Reinsurance and Renaissance Reinsurance of Europe by A.M. Best was revised to positive from stable. These ratings are subject to periodic review and may be revised or revoked, by the agencies which issue them. In addition, following the higher levels of hurricane frequency in 2004 and 2005, we understand that the rating agencies may review whether or not to require insurance and reinsurance companies that retain catastrophe risk, such as ourselves, to hold a higher level of capital to support this risk, if the insurance or reinsurance companies are to maintain their ratings.

While the ratings of Renaissance Reinsurance remain among the highest in our business, negative ratings actions in the future could have an adverse effect on our ability to fully realize the market opportunities we currently expect to participate in over coming periods. In addition, it is increasingly common for our reinsurance contracts to contain provisions permitting our clients to cancel coverage pro-rata if our relevant operating subsidiary is downgraded below a certain rating level. Whether a client would exercise this right would depend, among other factors, on the reason for such a downgrade, the extent of the downgrade, the prevailing market conditions and the pricing and availability of replacement reinsurance coverage. Therefore, in the event of a further downgrade, it is not possible to predict in advance the extent to which this cancellation right would be exercised, if at all, or what effect such cancellations would have on the financial condition or future operations, but such effect potentially could be material. To date we are not aware that we have experienced such a cancellation.

The rating agencies may downgrade or withdraw their financial strength ratings in the future if we do not continue to meet the criteria of the ratings previously assigned to us. Our ability to compete with other reinsurers and insurers, and our results of operations, could be materially adversely affected by any such ratings downgrade. For example, following a ratings downgrade we might lose clients to more highly rated competitors or retain a lower share of the business of our clients. The rating of Top Layer Re is dependent in large part upon the rating of State Farm, who provides Top Layer Re with \$3.9 billion of stop loss reinsurance.

Our claims and claim expense reserves are subject to inherent uncertainties.

Our claims and claim expense reserves reflect our estimates using actuarial and statistical projections at a given point in time of our expectations of the ultimate settlement and administration costs of claims incurred. Although we use actuarial and computer models as well as historical reinsurance and insurance industry loss statistics, we also rely heavily on management's experience and

Table of Contents

judgment to assist in the establishment of appropriate claim reserves. However, because of the many assumptions and estimates involved in establishing reserves, the reserving process is inherently uncertain.

Our specialty reinsurance and Individual Risk operations are expected to produce claims which frequently can only be resolved through lengthy and unpredictable litigation. The measures required to resolve such claims, including the adjudication process, present more reserve challenges than property losses (which tend to be reported comparatively more promptly and to be settled within a relatively shorter period of time). For both our specialty reinsurance and Individual Risk operations, and our traditional property catastrophe business, actual net claims and claim expenses paid may deviate, perhaps substantially, from the reserve estimates reflected in our financial statements.

We expect that some of our assumptions or estimates will prove to be inaccurate, and that our actual net claims and claim expenses paid will differ, perhaps substantially, from the reserve estimates reflected in our financial statements. To the extent that our actual claims and claim expenses exceed our expectations, we would be required to increase claims and claim expense reserves. This would reduce our net income by a corresponding amount in the period in which the deficiency is identified. In reserving for our specialty reinsurance and Individual Risk coverages we do not have the benefit of a significant amount of our own historical experience in these lines.

Our estimates of losses from hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma, as well as the previously reported 2004 hurricanes and windstorms, are based on factors including currently available information derived from our claims information from clients and brokers, industry assessments of losses from the events, proprietary models, and the terms and conditions of our contracts. Due to the size and unusual complexity of the legal and claims issues relating to these recent events, particularly hurricane Katrina, meaningful uncertainty remains regarding total covered losses for the insurance industry and, accordingly, several of the key assumptions underlying our loss estimates. In addition, actual losses from these events may increase if our reinsurers or other obligors fail to meet their obligations to us. Our actual losses from these events will likely vary, perhaps materially, from these current estimates due to the inherent uncertainties in reserving for such losses, including the nature of the available information, the potential inaccuracies and inadequacies in the data provided by clients and brokers, the inherent uncertainty of modeling techniques and the application of such techniques, the effects of any demand surge on claims activity and complex coverage and other legal issues.

Unlike the loss reserves of U.S. insurers, the loss reserves of our Bermuda insurers, including Renaissance Reinsurance, DaVinci and Glencoe Insurance, are not regularly examined by insurance regulators, although, as registered Bermuda insurers, we are required to submit opinions of our approved loss reserve specialist with the annual statutory financial returns of our Bermuda-licensed insurers with regard to their respective loss and loss expenses provisions. The loss reserve specialist, who will normally be a qualified actuary, must be approved by the Bermuda Monetary Authority.

The emergence of matters which may impact certain of our coverages, such as the asserted trend toward significant global warming or the potential for significant industry losses from a possible avian flu pandemic, could cause us to underestimate our exposures and potentially adversely impact our financial results.

In our Reinsurance business, we use analytic and modeling capabilities that help us to assess the risk and return of each reinsurance contract in relation to our overall portfolio of reinsurance contracts. For catastrophe-exposed business in our Individual Risk segment, we also seek to utilize proprietary modeling tools that have been developed in conjunction with the modeling and other resources utilized in our Reinsurance operations.

Our techniques for evaluating catastrophe risk in our Reinsurance and Individual Risk operations are not currently structured to predict certain types of risks. Our models may fail to adequately address the emergence of matters which may be deemed to impact certain of our coverages. Changing weather patterns and climatic conditions, such as global warming, for example, may have added to the unpredictability and frequency of natural disasters in some parts of the world and created additional uncertainty as to future trends and exposures. Our models may be based on data and assumptions that

Table of Contents

do not accurately account for these emerging developments. Similarly, the likelihood or potential severity of insured losses from an outbreak of a pandemic disease, such as the Avian Influenza A Virus (H5N1), is uncertain and may not be appropriately reflected in our models. While to date outbreaks of the avian flu continue to occur among poultry or wild birds in a number of countries in Asia, parts of Europe, and recently in Africa, transmission to humans has been rare. If the virus mutates to a form that can be transmitted from human to human, it has the potential to spread rapidly worldwide. The contagion and mortality rate of any mutated H5N1 virus that can be transmitted from human to human are highly speculative. Our models may understate the exposures we are assuming. If we fail to appropriately model, price for, and contractually address exposures for certain risks, our financial results may be adversely impacted, perhaps significantly.

Because we depend on a few insurance and reinsurance brokers for a large portion of revenue, loss of business provided by them could adversely affect us.

Our reinsurance business markets insurance and reinsurance products worldwide exclusively through insurance and reinsurance brokers. In recent years, we have experienced increased concentration of production from a smaller number of intermediaries. Four brokerage firms accounted for 90.1% of our Reinsurance segment gross premiums written for the year ended December 31, 2006. Subsidiaries and affiliates of the Benfield Group Limited, Marsh Inc., the Willis Group and AON Corporation accounted for approximately 40.6%, 25.4%, 14.3% and 9.8%, respectively, of our gross premiums written in 2006. The loss of a substantial portion of the business provided by these brokers would have a material adverse effect on us. Our ability to market our products could decline as a result of any loss of the business provided by these brokers and it is possible that our premiums written would decrease.

Our reliance on reinsurance brokers exposes us to their credit risk.

In accordance with industry practice, we pay virtually all amounts owed on claims under our policies to reinsurance brokers, and these brokers, in turn, pay these amounts over to the insurers that have reinsured a portion of their liabilities with us (we refer to these insurers as ceding insurers). Likewise, premiums due to us by ceding insurers are virtually all paid to brokers, who then pass such amounts on to us. In many jurisdictions, if a broker were to fail to make such a payment to a ceding insurer, we would remain liable to the ceding insurer for the deficiency. Conversely, in many jurisdictions, when the ceding insurer pays premiums for these policies to reinsurance brokers for payment over to us, these premiums are considered to have been paid by the cedants and the ceding insurer will no longer be liable to us for those amounts, whether or not we have actually received the premiums. Consequently, in connection with the settlement of reinsurance balances, we assume a substantial degree of credit risk associated with brokers around the world. As noted above, due to recent developments in the industry, we believe that the degree of this credit risk has increased.

Retrocessional reinsurance may become unavailable on acceptable terms.

As part of our risk management, we buy reinsurance for our own account. This type of insurance when purchased to protect reinsurance companies is known as retrocessional reinsurance. Our primary insurance companies also buy reinsurance from third parties.

From time to time, market conditions have limited, and in some cases have prevented, insurers and reinsurers from obtaining reinsurance. Accordingly, we may not be able to obtain our desired amounts of retrocessional reinsurance. In addition, even if we are able to obtain such retrocessional reinsurance, we may not be able to negotiate terms as favorable to us as in the past. This could limit the amount of business we are willing to write, or decrease the protection available to us as a result of large loss events.

When we purchase reinsurance or retrocessional reinsurance for our own account, the insolvency, inability or reluctance of any of our reinsurers to make timely payments to us under the terms of our reinsurance agreements could have a material adverse effect on us. Generally, we believe that the willingness to pay of some reinsurers and retrocessionaires is declining, and that the overall industry

Table of Contents

ability to pay has also declined due to the adverse results of 2005 and 2004 and other factors. This risk is more significant to us at present than generally in the past given the substantial retrocessional claims to which we are entitled following the recent large catastrophe loss events of 2005 and 2004. At March 31, 2007, we had recorded \$248.6 million of reinsurance recoverables, net of a valuation allowance of \$21.8 million for uncollectible recoverables. A comparably large portion of this amount is concentrated with a relatively small number of reinsurers.

We could be adversely impacted by U.S. government authority investigations into non-traditional, or loss mitigation, (re)insurance products, as well as our restatement of our financial statements.

We received a subpoena from the Commission in February 2005, a subpoena from the Office of the Attorney General of the State of New York (the NYAG) in March 2005, and a subpoena from the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York in June 2005, each of which related to the industry-wide investigations into non-traditional, or loss mitigation, (re)insurance products. The subpoenas from the Commission and the United States Attorney's Office also related to our business practice review and to our determination to restate our financial statements for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001. In addition, we understand that certain of our customers or reinsurers may have been asked to provide or have provided documents and information with respect to contracts to which we are a party in the framework of the ongoing industry-wide investigations.

On February 6, 2007, we announced that the Commission had accepted our offer of settlement to resolve the Commission's investigation, pursuant to which we have consented, without admitting or denying any wrongdoing, to entry of a final judgment enjoining future violations of certain provisions of the federal securities laws, and to pay disgorgement of \$1 and a civil penalty of \$15.0 million. We will also retain an independent consultant to review certain of our internal controls, policies and procedures as well as the design and implementation of the review conducted by independent counsel reporting to the non-executive members of our Board of Directors and certain additional procedures performed by our auditors in connection with their audit of our financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2004. The amount of the monetary penalty discussed above was provided for in 2005. On March 20, 2007, the court signed the final judgment approving the settlement. While we will strive to fully comply with the settlement agreement with the Commission, it is possible that the enforcement staff of the Commission or the independent consultant may take issue with our cooperation despite our efforts. Any such failure to comply with the settlement agreement or to be perceived to have failed to so comply could adversely affect us, perhaps materially so.

In September 2006, the Commission filed an enforcement action in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York against James N. Stanard, our former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Martin J. Merritt, our former controller, and Michael W. Cash, a former officer of RenaissanceRe, charging Messrs. Stanard, Merritt and Cash with violations of federal securities laws, including securities fraud, and seeks permanent injunctive relief, disgorgement of ill-gotten gains, if any, plus prejudgment interest, civil money penalties, and orders barring each defendant from acting as an officer or director of any public company. This ongoing matter could give rise to additional costs, distractions, or impacts to our reputation. It is possible that the ongoing investigation into our former officers could give rise to additional investigations or proceedings being commenced against us and/or our current or former senior executives in connection with these matters, which could be criminal or civil.

Emerging claim and coverage issues, or other litigation, could adversely affect us.

Unanticipated developments in the law as well as changes in social and environmental conditions could potentially result in unexpected claims for coverage under our insurance and reinsurance contracts. These developments and changes may adversely affect us, perhaps materially so. For example, we could be subject to developments that impose additional coverage obligations on us beyond our underwriting intent, or to increases in the number or size of claims to which we are subject. With respect to our specialty reinsurance and Individual Risk operations, these legal, social and environmental changes may not become apparent until some time after their occurrence. For example, we could be deemed liable for losses arising out of a matter, such as the potential for

Table of Contents

industry losses arising out of an avian flu pandemic that we had not anticipated or had attempted to contractually exclude. Our exposure to these uncertainties could be exacerbated by the increased willingness of some market participants to dispute insurance and reinsurance contract and policy wordings. Alternatively, potential efforts by us to exclude such exposures could, if successful, reduce the market's acceptance of our related products. The full effects of these and other unforeseen emerging claim and coverage issues are extremely hard to predict. As a result, the full extent of our liability under our coverages may not be known for many years after a contract is issued. Our exposure to this uncertainty will grow as our long-tail casualty businesses grow, because in these lines claims can typically be made for many years, making them more susceptible to these trends than our traditional catastrophe business, which is typically more short-tail. In addition, we could be adversely affected by the growing trend of plaintiffs targeting participants in the property-liability insurance industry in purported class action litigation relating to claim handling and other practices. Although we are seeking to add professional staff and systems to improve our contracts and claims capabilities, we may fail to mitigate our exposure to these growing uncertainties.

Beginning in July 2005, several putative class actions were filed in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York in respect of RenaissanceRe. In December 2005, these actions were consolidated and in February 2006, the plaintiffs filed a Consolidated Amended Complaint, purportedly on behalf of all persons who purchased and/or acquired the publicly traded securities of RenaissanceRe between April 22, 2003 and July 25, 2005. The Consolidated Amended Complaint, which was amended in December 2006, names as defendants, in addition to RenaissanceRe, current and former officers of RenaissanceRe (Messrs. Stanard, William I. Riker, John M. Lummiss, Cash and Merritt) and alleges that RenaissanceRe and the other named defendants violated the U.S. federal securities laws by making material misstatements and failing to state material facts about our business and financial condition in, among other things, SEC filings and public statements. The Consolidated Amended Complaint, as amended, seeks compensatory damages without specifying an amount.

On February 14, 2007, we executed a memorandum of understanding with plaintiffs' representatives setting forth an agreement in principle to settle the claims alleged in the Consolidated Amended Complaint, as amended. Pursuant to the terms of the agreement in principle, we did not make any admission of liability, and we continue to deny any and all liability in connection with the allegations of the Consolidated Amended Complaint, as amended. The total amount to be paid in settlement of the claims is \$13.5 million. A portion of this amount is expected to be offset by insurance recoveries. These amounts have been provided for in our financial statements. The settlement provides for the full release of all parties, including the Company and our present and former directors and officers, including without limitation the defendants who were named in the suits. The settlement is subject to, among other things, court review and approval and other customary conditions.

The loss of key senior members of management could adversely affect us.

Our success has depended, and will continue to depend, in substantial part upon our ability to attract and retain our executive officers. In particular, we believe we have been substantially dependent upon the services of our senior members of management, who include our co-founder and current Chief Executive Officer; the Presidents of RenaissanceRe, Renaissance Reinsurance and RenaissanceRe Ventures Ltd., each of whom has served with us for more than ten years; and the Chief Executive Officer of Glencoe Group. We announced in May 2007 that the President of RenaissanceRe, William Riker, has indicated that he intends to retire from his current position at the end of 2007, and will remain as an employee of the Company serving in an advisory capacity until August 2008. While we do not believe that Mr. Riker's transition will have an adverse impact on our business, we may be unable to foresee, or mitigate, all of the potential impacts of Mr. Riker's departure. In addition, the loss of services of other members of senior management in the future, and the uncertain transition of new members of our senior management team, may strain our ability to execute our growth initiatives. The loss of one or more of our executive officers, including but not limited to Mr. Riker and the persons named above, could adversely impact our business, by, for

Table of Contents

example, making it more difficult to retain clients or other business contacts whose relationship depends in part on the service of the departing executives. In general, the loss of the services of any members of our current senior management team may adversely affect our business, perhaps materially so.

In addition, our ability to execute our business strategy is dependent on our ability to attract and retain a staff of qualified underwriters and service personnel. The location of our global headquarters in Bermuda may impede our ability to recruit and retain highly skilled employees. We do not currently maintain key man life insurance policies with respect to any of our employees.

Under Bermuda law, non-Bermudians (other than spouses of Bermudians, holders of Permanent Residents Certificates and holders of Working Residents Certificates) may not engage in any gainful occupation in Bermuda without a valid government work permit. A work permit may be granted or renewed upon showing that, after proper public advertisement, no Bermudian, spouse of a Bermudian, or holder of a Permanent Residents Certificate or Working Residents Certificate who meets the minimum standards reasonably required by the employer has applied for the job. Substantially all of our officers are working in Bermuda under work permits that will expire over the next three years. The Bermuda government could refuse to extend these work permits. In addition, a Bermuda government policy limits the duration of work permits to a total of six years, which is subject to certain exemptions only for key employees. A work permit is issued with an expiry date (up to five years) and no assurances can be given that any work permit will be issued or, if issued, renewed upon the expiration of the relevant term. If any of our senior executive officers were not permitted to remain in Bermuda, our operations could be disrupted and our financial performance could be adversely affected as a result.

U.S. taxing authorities could contend that one or more of our Bermuda subsidiaries are subject to U.S. corporate income tax.

If the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (the IRS) were to contend successfully that Renaissance Reinsurance, Glencoe Insurance, DaVinci or Top Layer Re is engaged in a trade or business in the U.S., Renaissance Reinsurance, Glencoe Insurance, DaVinci or Top Layer Re would, to the extent not exempted from tax by the U.S.-Bermuda income tax treaty, be subject to U.S. corporate income tax on that portion of its net income treated as effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business, as well as the U.S. corporate branch profits tax. Although we would vigorously resist such a contention, if we were ultimately held to be subject to taxation, our earnings would correspondingly decline.

In addition, benefits of the U.S.-Bermuda income tax treaty which may limit any such tax to income attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by Renaissance Reinsurance, Glencoe Insurance, DaVinci or Top Layer Re in the U.S. are only available to any of Renaissance Reinsurance, GUSH, DaVinci or Top Layer Re if more than 50% of its shares are beneficially owned, directly or indirectly, by individuals who are Bermuda residents or U.S. citizens or residents. Renaissance Reinsurance, Glencoe Insurance, DaVinci or Top Layer Re may not be able to continually satisfy such beneficial ownership test or be able to establish it to the satisfaction of the IRS. Finally, it should be noted that it is unclear whether the income tax treaty (assuming satisfaction of the beneficial ownership test) applies to income other than premium income, such as investment income.

Regulatory challenges in the U.S. or elsewhere to our Bermuda operations claims of exemption from insurance regulation could restrict our ability to operate, increase our costs, or otherwise adversely impact us.

Renaissance Reinsurance, DaVinci and Top Layer Re are not licensed or admitted in any jurisdiction except Bermuda. Renaissance Reinsurance, Glencoe Insurance, DaVinci and Top Layer Re each conduct business only from their principal offices in Bermuda and do not maintain an office in the U.S. Recently, the insurance and reinsurance regulatory framework has been subject to increased scrutiny in many jurisdictions, including the U.S. and various states within the U.S. If our Bermuda insurance or reinsurance operations become subject to the insurance laws of any state in the U.S., we could face inquiries or challenges to the future operations of these companies.

Table of Contents

Moreover, we could be put at a competitive disadvantage in the future with respect to competitors that are licensed and admitted in U.S. jurisdictions. Among other things, jurisdictions in the U.S. do not permit insurance companies to take credit for reinsurance obtained from unlicensed or non-admitted insurers on their statutory financial statements unless security is posted. Our contracts generally require us to post a letter of credit or provide other security after a reinsured reports a claim. In order to post these letters of credit, issuing banks generally require collateral. It is possible that the European Union or other countries might adopt a similar regime in the future, or that U.S. rules could be altered in a way that treats Bermuda disproportionately. Any such development could adversely affect us.

Glencoe Insurance and Lantana Insurance Ltd. (Lantana) are currently eligible, non-admitted excess and surplus lines insurers in 51 and 49 states and territories of the U.S., respectively, and are each subject to certain regulatory and reporting requirements of these states and territories. However, neither Glencoe Insurance nor Lantana is admitted or licensed in any U.S. jurisdiction; moreover, Glencoe Insurance only conducts business from Bermuda. Accordingly, the scope of Glencoe Insurance's and Lantana's activities in the U.S. is limited, which could adversely affect their ability to compete.

In addition, Stonington Insurance Company, which writes insurance in all 50 states and the District of Columbia on an admitted basis, is subject to extensive regulation under state statutes which confer regulatory, supervisory and administrative powers on state insurance commissioners. Such regulation generally is designed to protect policyholders rather than investors, and relates to such matters as: rate setting; policy forms; limitations on dividends and transactions with affiliates; solvency standards which must be met and maintained; the licensing of insurers and their agents; the examination of the affairs of insurance companies, which includes periodic market conduct examinations by the regulatory authorities; annual and other reports, prepared on a statutory accounting basis; establishment and maintenance of reserves for unearned premiums and losses; and requirements regarding numerous other matters. We could be required to allocate considerable time and resources to comply with these requirements, and could be adversely affected if a regulatory authority believed we had failed to comply with an applicable law or regulation. We plan to grow Stonington's business and, accordingly, expect our absolute and relative regulatory burden to increase.

Our current or future business strategy could cause one or more of our subsidiaries to become subject to additional regulation in other jurisdictions. Any failure to comply with applicable laws could result in the imposition of significant restrictions on our ability to do business, and could also result in fines and other sanctions, any or all of which could adversely affect our financial results and operations.

Operational risks, including systems or human failures, are inherent in business, including ours.

We are subject to operational risks including fraud, employee errors, failure to document transactions properly or to obtain proper internal authorization, failure to comply with regulatory requirements, information technology failures, or external events. Losses from these risks may occur from time to time and may be significant. As our business and operations grow more complex we are exposed to more risk in these areas.

Our modeling, underwriting and information technology and application systems are critical to our success. Moreover, our proprietary technology and application systems have been an important part of our underwriting strategy and our ability to compete successfully. We have also licensed certain systems and data from third parties. We cannot be certain that we will have access to these, or comparable, service providers, or that our information technology or application systems will continue to operate as intended. While we have implemented disaster recovery and other business contingency plans, a defect or failure in our internal controls or information technology and application systems could result in reduced or delayed revenue growth, higher than expected losses, management distraction, or harm to our reputation. We believe appropriate controls and mitigation procedures are in place to prevent significant risk of defect in our internal controls, information technology and application systems, but internal controls provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance as to the

Table of Contents

absence of errors or irregularities and any ineffectiveness of such controls and procedures could have a material adverse effect on our business.

We may be adversely affected by foreign currency fluctuations.

Our functional currency is the U.S. dollar. A portion of our premium is written in currencies other than the U.S. dollar and a portion of our claims and claim expense reserves is also in non-dollar currencies. Moreover, we maintain a portion of our cash and investments in currencies other than the U.S. dollar. Although we generally seek to hedge significant non-U.S. dollar positions, we may, from time to time, experience losses resulting solely from fluctuations in the values of these foreign currencies, which could cause our consolidated earnings to decrease. In addition, failure to manage our foreign currency exposures could cause our results of operations to be more volatile.

A decline in our investment performance could reduce our profitability.

We derive a significant portion of our income from our invested assets, in amounts which have increased in recent years driven by factors including the increased size of our invested assets. As a result, our financial results depend in increasing part on the performance of our investment portfolio, which contains fixed maturity securities, such as bonds and mortgage-backed securities. Our operating results are subject to a variety of investment risks, including risks relating to general economic conditions, market volatility, interest rate fluctuations, foreign currency risk, liquidity risk and credit and default risk. Additionally, with respect to certain of our investments, we are subject to pre-payment or reinvestment risk.

As our invested assets have grown substantially in recent years and have come to effect a comparably greater contribution to our financial results, a failure to successfully execute our investment strategy could have a significant adverse effect on our overall results.

The market value of our fixed maturity investments is subject to fluctuation depending on changes in various factors, including prevailing interest rates. As a result of large reinsurance or insurance losses, we may be forced to liquidate our investments at times and prices that are not optimal, which could have a material adverse effect on the performance of our investment portfolio.

Increases in interest rates could cause the market value of our investment portfolio to decrease, perhaps substantially. Conversely, a decline in interest rates could reduce our investment yield, which would reduce our overall profitability. Interest rates are highly sensitive to many factors, including governmental monetary policies, domestic and international economic and political conditions and other factors beyond our control. Any measures we take that are intended to manage the risks of operating in a changing interest rate environment may not effectively mitigate such interest rate sensitivity.

In recent years we have allocated a portion of our portfolio to other investments which have different risk characteristics than our traditional fixed maturity securities and short term investment portfolios. These other investments include private equity partnerships, hedge fund investments, a fund that invests in senior secured bank loans, a European high yield credit fund and catastrophe bonds. Also included in other investments are investments in a medium term note, representing an interest in a pool of European fixed income securities, a non-U.S. dollar convertible fund and miscellaneous other investments. We have been decreasing our percentage allocation to these other investments, particularly hedge funds. The performance of these other investments had a positive impact on the performance of our investment portfolio in 2005 and 2006, and accordingly our decreased relative allocation to these investments could reduce the returns on our portfolio, adversely affecting our overall profitability.

These other investments are recorded on our consolidated balance sheet at fair value. The fair value of certain of these investments is generally established on the basis of the net valuation criteria established by the managers of such investments. These net valuations are determined based upon the valuation criteria established by the governing documents of the investments. Due to a lag in the valuations reported by the fund managers, the majority of our other investments are reported on a

Table of Contents

one month or one quarter lag. Such valuations may differ significantly from the values that would have been used had ready markets existed for the shares, partnership interests or notes of the investments. Many of the investments are subject to restrictions on redemptions and sales which are determined by the governing documents and limit our ability to liquidate these investments in the short term. These investments expose us to market risks including interest rate risk, foreign currency risk, equity price risk and credit risk. We are unable to precisely quantify these risks as we do not have timely access to the securities underlying each investment. To the extent these risks move against us it could result in a material adverse change to our investment performance. The performance of these investments is also dependent on the individual investment managers and the investment strategies. It is possible that the investment managers will leave and/or the investment strategies will become ineffective. Any of the foregoing could result in a material adverse change to our investment performance, and accordingly adversely affect our financial results.

Given our reliance on external investment managers, we could also be exposed to the operational risks, for example, but not limited to, technological and staffing deficiencies and inadequate disaster recovery plans of our investment managers.

We may require additional capital in the future, which may not be available or only available on unfavorable terms.

We monitor our capital adequacy on a regular basis. The capital requirements of our business depend on many factors, including our ability to write new business successfully and to establish premium rates and reserves at levels sufficient to cover losses. Our ability to underwrite is largely dependent upon the quality of our claims paying and financial strength ratings as evaluated by independent rating agencies. To the extent that our existing capital is insufficient to support our future operating requirements, we may need to raise additional funds through financings or limit our growth. Any further equity or debt financing, if available at all, may be on terms that are unfavorable to us. Our ability to raise such capital successfully would depend upon the facts and circumstances at the time, including our financial position and operating results, market conditions, and applicable legal issues.

If we are not able to obtain adequate capital if and when needed, our business, results of operation and financial condition would be adversely affected.

The covenants in our debt agreements limit our financial and operational flexibility, which could have an adverse effect on our financial condition.

We have incurred indebtedness, and may incur additional indebtedness in the future. At March 31, 2007, we had an aggregate of \$450.0 million of indebtedness outstanding, consisting of \$100.0 million of 5.875% Senior Notes due 2013, \$150.0 million of 7.0% Senior Notes due 2008, and a \$200.0 million bank loan incurred and fully drawn by our consolidated subsidiary, DaVinciRe Holdings Ltd. (DaVinciRe).

Our insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries maintain letter of credit facilities in connection with their insurance and reinsurance business. The largest of these is a secured letter of credit facility established under a reimbursement agreement entered into by certain of our operating subsidiaries and affiliates. The obligations of each of our subsidiaries and affiliates party to the reimbursement agreement are secured by certain collateral, including cash, eligible high-quality marketable securities and redeemable preference shares of Renaissance Investment Holdings Ltd. The facility currently is in the amount of \$1.4 billion, with the potential to increase the total commitments under the facility to \$1.8 billion if certain conditions are met. At March 31, 2007, the aggregate face amount of letters of credit outstanding under the reimbursement agreement with effective dates on or before December 31, 2006 was approximately \$1.0 billion and total letters of credit outstanding under all facilities was approximately \$1.1 billion. In addition, we maintain a committed revolving credit agreement, currently in the amount of \$500.0 million. We have the right, subject to certain conditions, to increase the size of the facility to \$600.0 million. No advances were outstanding under this facility at March 31, 2007.

Table of Contents

The agreements covering our indebtedness, particularly our bank loans, contain numerous covenants that limit our ability, among other things, to borrow money, make particular types of investments or other restricted payments, sell assets, merge or consolidate. These agreements also require us to maintain specific financial ratios. If we fail to comply with these covenants or meet these financial ratios, the lenders under our credit facilities could declare a default and demand immediate repayment of all amounts owed to them, cancel their commitments to lend or issue letters of credit, or both, and require us to pledge additional or a different type of collateral.

Because we are a holding company, we are dependent on dividends and payments from our subsidiaries.

As a holding company with no direct operations, we rely on investment income, cash dividends and other permitted payments from our subsidiaries to make principal and interest payments on our debt and to pay dividends to our shareholders. The holding company does not have any operations and from time to time may not have significant liquid assets. If our subsidiaries are restricted from paying dividends to us, we may be unable to pay dividends or to repay our indebtedness.

Bermuda law and regulations require our subsidiaries which are registered in Bermuda as insurers to maintain a minimum solvency margin and minimum liquidity ratio, and prohibit dividends that would result in a breach of these requirements. Further, Renaissance Reinsurance and DaVinci, as Class 4 insurers in Bermuda, may not pay dividends which would exceed 25% of their respective capital and surplus, unless they first make filings confirming that they meet the required margins. Our Class 3 insurers, including Glencoe Insurance, Lantana and Top Layer Re, may not declare or pay dividends during any financial year that would cause that insurer (as the case may be) to fail to meet its minimum solvency margin and minimum liquidity ratio.

Generally, our U.S. insurance subsidiaries may only pay dividends out of earned surplus. Further, the amount payable without the prior approval of the applicable state insurance department is generally limited to the greater of 10% of policyholders' surplus or statutory capital, or 100% of the subsidiary's prior year statutory net income. Since our U.S. insurance subsidiaries' earned surplus is negative, these subsidiaries cannot currently pay dividends without the applicable state insurance department approval.

Some aspects of our corporate structure may discourage third-party takeovers and other transactions or prevent the removal of our current board of directors and management.

Some provisions of our Amended and Restated Bye-Laws have the effect of making more difficult or discouraging unsolicited takeover bids from third parties or preventing the removal of our current board of directors and management. In particular, our Bye-Laws prohibit transfers of our capital shares if the transfer would result in a person owning or controlling shares that constitute 9.9% or more of any class or series of our shares. The primary purpose of this restriction is to reduce the likelihood that we will be deemed a controlled foreign corporation within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code for U.S. federal tax purposes. However, this limit may also have the effect of deterring purchases of large blocks of common shares or proposals to acquire us, even if some or a majority of our shareholders might deem these purchases or acquisition proposals to be in their best interests.

In addition, our Bye-Laws provide for:

a classified Board, whose size is fixed and whose members may be removed by the shareholders only for cause upon a 66²/3% vote;

restrictions on the ability of shareholders to nominate persons to serve as directors, submit resolutions to a shareholder vote and requisition special general meetings;

a large number of authorized but unissued shares which may be issued by the Board without further shareholder action; and

a 66²/3 % shareholder vote to amend, repeal or adopt any provision inconsistent with several provisions of the Bye-Laws.

Table of Contents

These Bye-Law provisions make it more difficult to acquire control of us by means of a tender offer, open market purchase, proxy contest or otherwise. These provisions are designed to encourage persons seeking to acquire control of us to negotiate with our directors, which we believe would generally best serve the interests of our shareholders. However, these provisions could have the effect of discouraging a prospective acquirer from making a tender offer or otherwise attempting to obtain control of us. In addition, these Bye-Law provisions could prevent the removal of our current board of directors and management. To the extent these provisions discourage takeover attempts, they could deprive shareholders of opportunities to realize takeover premiums for their shares or could depress the market price of the shares.

We indirectly own Stonington Insurance Company, Stonington Lloyds Insurance Company, Newstead Insurance Company and Inverness Insurance Company. Our ownership of a U.S. insurance company such as these can, under applicable state insurance company laws and regulations, delay or impede a change of control of RenaissanceRe. It is possible that we will form, acquire or invest in other U.S. domestic insurance companies in the future, which could make this risk more severe. Under applicable state insurance regulations, any proposed purchase of 10% or more of our voting securities would require the prior approval of the relevant insurance regulatory authorities.

We are a Bermuda company and it may be difficult for you to enforce judgments against us or our directors and executive officers.

We are a Bermuda exempted company. As a result, the rights of holders of our common shares will be governed by Bermuda law and our memorandum of association and bye-laws. The rights of shareholders under Bermuda law may differ from the rights of shareholders of companies incorporated in other jurisdictions. Many of our directors and some of the named experts referred to in this prospectus are not residents of the U.S., and a substantial portion of our assets are located outside the U.S. As a result, it may be difficult for investors to effect service of process on those persons in the U.S. or to enforce in the U.S. judgments obtained in U.S. courts against us or those persons based on the civil liability provisions of the U.S. securities laws. It is doubtful whether courts in Bermuda will enforce judgments obtained in other jurisdictions, including the U.S., against us or our directors or officers under the securities laws of those jurisdictions or entertain actions in Bermuda against us or our directors or officers under the securities laws of other jurisdictions.

RISKS RELATED TO OUR INDUSTRY

The reinsurance business is historically cyclical and the pricing and terms for our products may decline, which could affect our profitability.

The reinsurance and insurance industries have historically been cyclical, characterized by periods of decreasing prices followed by periods of increasing prices. Reinsurers have experienced significant fluctuations in their results of operations due to numerous factors, including the frequency and severity of the catastrophic events, perceptions of risk, levels of capacity, general economic conditions and underwriting results of other insurers and reinsurers. All of these factors fluctuate and may contribute to price declines generally in the reinsurance and insurance industries. It is possible that, in light of current factors such as the increase of capital in our industry since the 2005 catastrophic events and the Florida legislation described below, we have entered or will shortly enter a period in which such price declines will be common.

As noted, changes in the pricing environment may result from changes in the perception of risk following large industry loss events. In particular, the catastrophe-exposed lines in which we are a market leader are affected significantly by volatile and unpredictable developments, including natural and man-made disasters, such as hurricanes, windstorms, earthquakes, floods, fires, explosions, and acts of terrorism, such as hurricane Katrina and the World Trade Center disaster. The occurrence, or nonoccurrence, of catastrophic events, the frequency and severity of which are inherently unpredictable, affects both industry results and consequently prevailing market prices of our products.

We expect premium rates and other terms and conditions of trade to vary in the future. If demand for our products falls or the supply of competing capacity rises, we expect our growth to be

Table of Contents

adversely affected, and our profitability could be affected as well. In particular, we might lose existing customers or decline business, which we might not regain when industry conditions improve.

In addition, a substantial amount of capital has entered the insurance and reinsurance markets both through investments in established companies and through start-up ventures as described above. Hedge funds have been increasingly active in the reinsurance market and markets for related risks. Generally, we expect this trend to increase over time. It is possible that such new or alternative capital in or affecting the market could cause further reductions in prices of our products. To the extent that industry pricing of our products does not meet our hurdle rate, we would plan to reduce our future underwriting activities thus resulting in reduced premiums and a reduction in expected earnings.

Heightened scrutiny of issues and practices in the insurance industry may adversely affect our business.

The Commission, the NYAG and the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, and other government authorities are scrutinizing and investigating a number of issues and practices within the insurance industry. It is possible that these investigations or related regulatory developments will mandate or otherwise give rise to changes in industry practices in a fashion that increases our costs or requires us to alter how we conduct our business.

We cannot predict the ultimate effect that these investigations, and any changes in industry practice, including future legislation or regulations that may become applicable to us, will have on the insurance industry, the regulatory framework, or our business.

Because we frequently assume the credit risk of the brokers with whom we do business throughout our insurance and reinsurance operations, our results of operations could be adversely affected if the credit quality of these brokers is severely impacted by the current investigations in the insurance industry or by changes to broker industry practices.

We operate in a highly competitive environment.

The reinsurance industry is highly competitive. We compete, and will continue to compete, with major U.S. and non-U.S. insurers and property catastrophe reinsurers, including other Bermuda-based reinsurers. Many of our competitors have greater financial, marketing and management resources than we do. Market participants continue to raise and accumulate new capital, thereby strengthening their ability to compete. In addition, alternative sources of competitive capital, including hedge funds, are increasing the overall capacity in the industry. Increased capacity levels in our industry generally have led to increased competition.

We believe that our principal competitors in the property catastrophe reinsurance market include other companies active in the Bermuda market, including Ace Limited, Aspen Holdings Ltd., Everest Re Group Ltd., IPC Holdings, Ltd., PartnerRe Ltd. and XL Capital Ltd., along with other relatively new Bermuda reinsurers such as Allied World Assurance Company, Arch Reinsurance Ltd., Axis Capital Holdings Limited, Endurance Specialty Holdings Ltd., Montpelier Re Holdings Ltd. and Platinum Underwriters Holdings, Ltd. We also compete with certain Lloyd's syndicates active in the London market, as well as with a number of other industry participants, such as AIG, Berkshire, Munich Re Group and Swiss Re. As our business evolves over time we expect our competitors to change as well. Following hurricane Katrina in August 2005, a significant number of new reinsurance companies were formed in Bermuda which have resulted in new competition, which may well continue in subsequent periods. There has been substantial new capital contributed to these new Bermuda-based reinsurance enterprises. In addition, we believe existing reinsurance companies raised significant new capital subsequent to hurricane Katrina to rebuild their capital position and to capitalize on new opportunities. Also, hedge funds have shown increasing interest in entering the reinsurance market, either through the formation of reinsurance companies, or through the use of other financial products. In addition, we may not be aware of other companies that may be planning to enter the reinsurance market or of existing companies that may be planning to raise additional capital.

Table of Contents

We also continue to experience a degree of competition from alternative products from capital market participants that are intended to compete with reinsurance products and which could impact the demand for traditional catastrophe reinsurance. We believe activity in this sector has recently increased and may continue to increase. We cannot predict what effect any of these developments may have on our businesses.

The businesses in which our Individual Risk unit operates are also highly competitive. Primary insurers compete on the basis of factors including distribution channels, product, price, service and financial strength. Many of our primary insurance competitors are larger and more established than we are and have greater financial resources and consumer recognition. We seek primary insurance pricing that will result in adequate returns on the capital allocated to our primary insurance business. We may lose primary insurance business to competitors offering competitive insurance products at lower prices or on more advantageous terms.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the European Union are considering measures that might increase our taxes and reduce our net income.

The OECD has published reports and launched a global dialogue among member and non-member countries on measures to limit harmful tax competition. These measures are largely directed at counteracting the effects of tax havens and preferential tax regimes in countries around the world. In the OECD's report dated April 18, 2002 and updated as of June 2004 and November 2005 via a Global Forum, Bermuda was not listed as an uncooperative tax haven jurisdiction because it had previously committed to eliminate harmful tax practices and to embrace international tax standards for transparency, exchange of information and the elimination of any aspects of the regimes for financial and other services that attract business with no substantial domestic activity. We are not able to predict what changes will arise from the commitment or whether such changes will subject us to additional taxes.

Consolidation in the insurance industry could adversely impact us.

We believe that many insurance industry participants are seeking to consolidate. These consolidated entities may try to use their enhanced market power to negotiate price reductions for our products and services. If competitive pressures reduce our prices, we would expect to write less business. As the insurance industry consolidates, competition for customers will become more intense and the importance of acquiring and properly servicing each customer will become greater. We could incur greater expenses relating to customer acquisition and retention, further reducing our operating margins. In addition, insurance companies that merge may be able to spread their risks across a consolidated, larger capital base so that they require less reinsurance. The number of companies offering retrocessional reinsurance may decline. Reinsurance intermediaries could also consolidate, potentially adversely impacting our ability to access business and distribute our products. We could also experience more robust competition from larger, better capitalized competitors. Any of the foregoing could adversely affect our business or our results of operation.

Political, regulatory and industry initiatives could adversely affect our business.

The insurance and reinsurance regulatory framework is subject to heavy scrutiny by the U.S. and individual state governments as well as an increasing number of international authorities. Government regulators are generally concerned with the protection of policyholders to the exclusion of other constituencies, including shareholders. Increasingly, governmental authorities in both the U.S. and worldwide seem to us to be interested in the potential risks posed by the reinsurance industry as a whole, and to commercial and financial systems in general. While we do not believe these inquiries have identified meaningful new risks posed by the reinsurance industry, and we cannot predict the exact nature, timing or scope of possible governmental initiatives, we believe it is likely there will be increased regulatory intervention in our industry in the future. For example, the U.S. federal government has increased its scrutiny of the insurance regulatory framework in recent years, and some state legislators have considered or enacted laws that will alter and likely increase state regulation of insurance and reinsurance companies and holding companies. Moreover, the National Association of

Table of Contents

Insurance Commissioners, which is an association of the insurance commissioners of all 50 states and the District of Columbia and state insurance regulators, regularly reexamine existing laws and regulations.

For example, we could be adversely affected by proposals to:

provide insurance and reinsurance capacity in markets and to consumers that we target, such as the legislation enacted in Florida in early 2007;

require our participation in industry pools and guaranty associations;

expand the scope of coverage under existing policies for matters such as hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma, and the New Orleans flood, or such as a pandemic flu outbreak;

increasingly mandate the terms of insurance and reinsurance policies; or

disproportionately benefit the companies of one country over those of another.

In particular, the legislation enacted by the State of Florida relating to the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund (FHCF), Citizens Property Insurance Corporation (Citizens) and related matters could be expanded in scope or in duration, furthering its adverse impact on the private markets and us. It is also possible that other states, particularly those with Atlantic or Gulf Coast exposures, or the Federal government, may enact new or expanded legislation based on the Florida precedent, which would further diminish aggregate private market demand for our products.

Moreover, we believe that numerous modeled potential catastrophes could exceed the actual or politically acceptable bonded capacity of the FHCF, which could lead either to a severe industry dislocation or the necessity of Federal intervention in the Florida market, either of which could adversely impact the private insurance and reinsurance industry.

The growth of our primary insurance business, which is regulated more comprehensively than reinsurance, increases our exposure to adverse political, judicial and legal developments. Moreover, our exposure to potential regulatory initiatives could be heightened by the fact that our principal operating companies are domiciled in, and operate exclusively from, Bermuda. For example, Bermuda, a small jurisdiction, may be disadvantaged in participating in global or cross border regulatory matters as compared with larger jurisdictions such as the U.S. or the leading European Union countries. In addition, Bermuda, which is currently an overseas territory of the United Kingdom, may consider changes to its relationship with the United Kingdom in the future. These changes could adversely affect Bermuda's position in respect of future regulatory initiatives, which could adversely impact us commercially.

Recent or future legislation may decrease the demand for our property catastrophe reinsurance products and adversely affect our business and results of operations.

In January 2007, the State of Florida enacted legislation known as Bill No. CS/HB-1A (the Bill), which increased the access of primary Florida insurers to the FHCF. Through the FHCF, the State of Florida now provides below market rate reinsurance of up to \$28.0 billion per season, an increase from the previous cap of \$16.0 billion, with the State able to further increase the limits up to an additional \$4.0 billion per season. In addition, the legislation allows Florida insurers to choose a lower retention level for FHCF reinsurance coverage, at specified rates for specified layers of coverage. Further, the legislation expanded the ability of Citizens, a state-sponsored entity, to compete with private insurance and reinsurance companies, such as ours; by, for example, authorizing Citizens to write multi-peril policies in high-risk account coverage areas. Moreover, the legislation mandated the reduction of Citizens' in force rates by an average of 23%, repealed a 56% rate increase that was to be effective March 1, 2007, and froze any additional rate increases for the remainder of 2007. Also, Citizens' premium rates are no longer required to be non-competitive with the voluntary, private market and are no longer required to be based on the highest rate offered by the top 20 insurers in a given area. In sum, the legislation reduced the role of the private markets in providing support for Florida-based risks, a market in which we have established substantial market share. While we intend to seek to utilize our strong relationships, record of superior service and financial strength to mitigate

Table of Contents

the impact of the Bill, because of our position as one of the largest providers of catastrophe-exposed coverage, both on a global basis and in respect of the Florida market, the Bill may have a disproportionate adverse impact on us compared to other market participants.

It is also possible that other states, particularly those with Atlantic or Gulf Coast exposures, may enact new or expanded legislation based on the Florida precedent, which would further diminish aggregate private market demand for our products. Alternatively, legislation adversely impacting the private markets could be enacted on a regional or at the federal level. Moreover, we believe that numerous modeled potential catastrophes could exceed the actual or politically acceptable bonded capacity of the FHCF, which could lead either to a severe dislocation or the necessity of Federal intervention in the Florida market, either of which would adversely impact the private insurance and reinsurance industry.

We could be adversely affected if TRIA is not renewed.

In response to the tightening of supply in certain insurance and reinsurance markets resulting from, among other things, the September 11th tragedy, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act, commonly referred to as TRIA, was enacted in 2002 to ensure the availability of commercial insurance coverage for certain terrorist acts in the U.S. This law established a federal assistance program through the end of 2005 (as amended, through the end of 2007) to help the commercial property and casualty insurance industry cover claims related to future terrorism-related losses and required that coverage for terrorist acts be offered by insurers. TRIA was originally scheduled to expire at the end of 2005, but was extended in December 2005 for an additional two years. The extended bill reduced the protections of the act. For example, as extended, the insurer deductible was increased from 15% in 2005 to 17.5% in 2006 and 20% in 2007. In addition, the extended TRIA established a new program trigger under which Federal compensation will become available only if aggregate insured losses sustained by all insurers exceed \$50.0 million from a certified act of terrorism occurring after March 31, 2006 and \$100.0 million for losses resulting from a certified act which occurs on or after January 1, 2007. We believe TRIA has been an effective mechanism to assist policyholders and industry participants with the extreme contingent losses that might be caused by acts of terrorism. We cannot assure you that TRIA will be extended beyond 2007, and its expiration could have an adverse effect on our clients, industry or us.

RISKS RELATED TO THE OFFERING

Any subordinated debt securities that we issue would rank below our existing and future senior debt.

Any subordinated debt securities that we issue would be unsecured and subordinated in right of payment to all of our existing and future senior debt. Because these subordinated debt securities would be subordinated to our senior debt, we would be unable to make any payments of principal, including redemption payments, or interest on the subordinated debt securities, in the event of payment default on senior debt obligations and may be prohibited in the event of some non-payment defaults. Moreover, in the event of our bankruptcy, liquidation or reorganization, the acceleration of the debt underlying any of our subordinated debt securities due to an event of default, and certain other events, we would make payments on such subordinated debt securities only after we have satisfied all of our senior debt obligations. As of March 31, 2007, we had an aggregate of \$450.0 million outstanding senior debt, to which any subordinated debt securities we might issue would be subordinated. See also the risk factor related to our debt agreement covenants above.

In addition, because we are a holding company, any subordinated debt securities we may offer would be effectively subordinated to all existing and future liabilities of our subsidiaries, including the liabilities of our insurance subsidiaries to their policy holders. The rights of our creditors (including the holders of any debt securities we might issue) to participate in distributions by certain of our subsidiaries, including our insurance subsidiaries, may also be subject to the approval of insurance regulatory authorities having jurisdiction over these subsidiaries. As of March 31, 2007, our subsidiaries had an aggregate of approximately \$200.0 million of indebtedness outstanding. Unless we

Table of Contents

specify otherwise in a prospectus supplement, the subordinated indenture will not limit the amount of other indebtedness or liabilities that we or our subsidiaries may incur or securities that we or our subsidiaries may issue in the future.

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or the accompanying prospectus supplement contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act). Forward-looking statements are necessarily based on estimates and assumptions that are inherently subject to significant business, economic and competitive uncertainties and contingencies, many of which, with respect to future business decisions, are subject to change. These uncertainties and contingencies can affect actual results and could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in any forward-looking statements made by, or on behalf of, us.

In particular, statements using words such as may, should, estimate, expect, anticipate, intends, believe, predict, potential, or will import generally involve forward-looking statements. In light of the risks and uncertainties inherent in all future projections, the inclusion of forward-looking statements should not be considered as a representation by us or any other person that our objectives or plans will be achieved. Numerous factors could cause our actual results to differ materially from those addressed by the forward-looking statements, including the following:

we are exposed to significant losses from catastrophic events and other exposures that we cover that may cause significant volatility in our financial results;

the frequency and severity of catastrophic events could exceed our estimates and cause losses greater than we expect;

risks associated with implementing our business strategies and initiatives, including the risks with building the operations, controls and other infrastructure necessary in respect of our more recent, new or proposed initiatives;

risks relating to our strategy of relying on program managers, third-party administrators, and other vendors to support our Individual Risk operations;

other risks of doing business with program managers, including the risk we might be bound to policyholder obligations beyond our underwriting intent, and the risk that our program managers or agents may elect not to continue or renew their programs with us;

risks associated with executing our strategy in our newer specialty reinsurance and Individual Risk businesses;

the risk of the lowering or loss of any of the ratings of RenaissanceRe or of one or more of our subsidiaries or changes in the policies or practices of the rating agencies;

risks relating to the passage of recent legislation in Florida relating to reinsurance coverages offered by the FHCF and insurance policies written by the State sponsored Citizens;

the inherent uncertainties in our reserving process, including those related to the 2005 catastrophes, which uncertainties we believe are increasing as we diversify into new product classes;

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form 424B5

risks associated with appropriately modeling, pricing for, and contractually addressing new or potential factors in loss emergence, such as the possible trend toward significant global warming and other aspects of climate change which have the potential to adversely affect our business, or the potential for significant industry losses from a matter such as an avian flu pandemic which could cause us to underestimate our exposures and potentially adversely impact our financial results;

Table of Contents

we may be affected by increased competition, including from new entrants formed following hurricane Katrina, or in future periods by a decrease in the level of demand for our reinsurance or insurance products, particularly as capital markets products provide alternatives and replacements for our more traditional reinsurance and insurance products;

risks due to our dependence on a few insurance and reinsurance brokers for a large portion of our revenue, a risk we believe is increasing as a larger portion of our business is provided by a small number of these brokers;

emerging claims and coverage issues, which could expand our obligations beyond the amount we intend to underwrite;

failures of our reinsurers, brokers or program managers to honor their obligations, including their obligations to make third-party payments for which we might be liable;

the risk that ongoing or future industry regulatory developments will disrupt our business, or that of our business partners, or mandate changes in industry practices in ways that increase our costs, decrease our revenues or require us to alter aspects of the way we do business;

risks that the ongoing industry investigations, or the current governmental investigations and related proceedings involving former executives of the Company might impact us adversely, including as regards to our senior executive team;

risks relating to the availability and collectibility of our reinsurance with respect to both our Reinsurance and Individual Risk operations;

changes in economic conditions, including interest rate, currency, equity and credit conditions which could affect our investment portfolio or declines in our investment returns for other reasons;

a contention by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service that our Bermuda subsidiaries, including Renaissance Reinsurance, DaVinciRe, Glencoe Insurance and Renaissance Investment Holdings Ltd., are subject to U.S. taxation;

the passage of federal or state legislation subjecting Renaissance Reinsurance or our other Bermuda subsidiaries to supervision, regulation or taxation in the U.S. or other jurisdictions in which we operate;

loss of services of any one of our key executive officers, or difficulties associated with the transition of new members of our senior management team;

risks that we may require additional capital in the future, in particular after a catastrophic event, which may not be available or may be available only on unfavorable terms;

changes in the distribution or placement of risks due to increased consolidation of clients or insurance and reinsurance brokers, or program managers, or from potential changes in their business practices which may be required by future regulatory changes;

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form 424B5

extraordinary events affecting our clients or brokers, such as bankruptcies and liquidations, and the risk that we may not retain or replace our large clients;

sanctions against us, as a Bermuda-based company, by multinational organizations;

changes in insurance regulations in the U.S. or other jurisdictions in which we operate, including the risks that U.S. federal or state governments will take actions to diminish the size of the private markets in respect of the coverages we offer, the risk of potential challenges to the Company's claim of exemption from insurance regulation under current laws, the risk of increased global regulation of the insurance and reinsurance industry, and the risk that the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 will not be renewed after 2007;

acts of terrorism, war or political unrest;

possible challenges in maintaining our fee-based operations, including risks associated with retaining our existing partners and attracting potential new partners; and

Table of Contents

operational risks, including system or human failures.

The factors listed above should not be construed as exhaustive. Certain of these factors are described in more detail in Risk Factors above.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement states otherwise, the net proceeds from the sale of securities offered by RenaissanceRe, RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH or the Capital Trust will be used by us and our subsidiaries for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions and other general corporate purposes. Until we use the net proceeds in this manner, we may temporarily use them to make short-term investments or reduce short-term borrowings.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF OUR CAPITAL SHARES

The following is a summary of certain provisions of our Memorandum of Association and Bye-Laws. Because this summary is not complete, you should refer to our Memorandum and Bye-Laws for complete information regarding the provisions of the Memorandum and Bye-Laws, including the definitions of some of the terms used below. Copies of the Memorandum and Bye-Laws are incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. Whenever we refer to particular sections or defined terms of the Memorandum and Bye-Laws, such sections or defined terms are incorporated herein by reference.

COMMON SHARES

Our common shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol RNR. The common shares currently issued and outstanding are fully paid and nonassessable within the meaning of applicable Bermuda law. We have authorized the issuance of 225,000,000 common shares, and 72,264,287 shares were outstanding on April 20, 2007. Any common shares offered by a prospectus supplement, upon issuance against full consideration, will be fully paid and nonassessable within the meaning of applicable Bermuda law. There are no provisions of Bermuda law or our Memorandum or Bye-Laws which impose any limitation on the rights of shareholders to hold or vote common shares by reason of their not being residents of Bermuda.

A more detailed description of our common shares is set forth in our registration statement filed under the Exchange Act on Form 8-A on July 24, 1995, including any amendment or report for the purpose of updating such description.

Certain shares held by PT Investments Inc., one of our founding investors, consist of our diluted voting class I common shares. Each holder of these diluted voting common shares is entitled to a fixed voting interest in RenaissanceRe of up to 9.9% of all outstanding voting rights attached to the full voting common shares, taking into account the percentage interest in RenaissanceRe represented by full voting common shares owned directly, indirectly, or constructively by the holder within the meaning of Section 958 of the Internal Revenue Code and applicable rules and regulations thereunder. The diluted voting common shares are not listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

The diluted voting common shares are convertible into an equal number of our full voting common shares on a one-for-one basis at the option of the holder thereof upon two days prior written notice.

PREFERENCE SHARES

Our Bye-Laws divide our share capital into 225,000,000 common shares and 100,000,000 preference shares. Currently, 4,000,000 of our 7.30% Series B Preference Shares are outstanding, 10,000,000 of our 6.08% Series C Preference Shares are outstanding and 12,000,000 of our 6.60% Series D Preference Shares are outstanding. From time to time, pursuant to the authority granted by the Bye-Laws, our Board may create and issue one or more series of preference shares. The preference shares, upon issuance against full consideration, will be fully paid and nonassessable. The particular rights and preferences of the preference shares offered by any prospectus supplement and the extent, if any, to which the general provisions described below may apply to the offered preference shares, will be described in the prospectus supplement. Certain terms of the 7.30% Series B Preference Shares are summarized below under Series B Preference Shares, certain terms of the 6.08% Series C Preference Shares are summarized below under Series C Preference Shares, and certain terms of the 6.60% Series D Preference Shares are summarized below under Series D Preference Shares.

Because the following summary of the terms of preference shares is not complete, you should refer to the Memorandum, the Bye-Laws and any applicable Certificate of Designation, Preferences and Rights or other governing instrument for complete information regarding the terms of the class or series of preference shares described in a prospectus supplement. Whenever we refer to particular sections or defined terms of the Memorandum, the Bye-Laws and an applicable Certificate of Designation, Preferences and Rights or other governing instrument, such sections or defined terms are incorporated herein by reference.

Table of Contents

A prospectus supplement will specify the terms of a particular class or series of preference shares as follows:

the number of shares to be issued and sold and the distinctive designation thereof;

the dividend rights of the preference shares, whether dividends will be cumulative and, if so, from which date or dates and the relative rights or priority, if any, of payment of dividends on preference shares and any limitations, restrictions or conditions on the payment of such dividends;

the voting powers, if any, of the preference shares, equal to or greater than one vote per share, which may include the right to vote, as a class or with other classes of capital stock, to elect one or more of our directors;

the terms and conditions (including the price or prices, which may vary under different conditions and at different redemption dates), if any, upon which all or any part of the preference shares may be redeemed, at whose option such a redemption may occur, and any limitations, restrictions or conditions on such redemption;

the terms, if any, upon which the preference shares will be convertible into or exchangeable for our shares of any other class, classes or series;

the relative amounts, and the relative rights or priority, if any, of payment in respect of preference shares, which the holders of the preference shares will be entitled to receive upon our liquidation, dissolution, winding up, merger or sale of assets;

the terms, if any, of any purchase, retirement or sinking fund to be provided for the preference shares;

the restrictions, limitations and conditions, if any, upon the issuance of our indebtedness so long as any preference shares are outstanding; and

any other relative rights, preferences, limitations and powers not inconsistent with applicable law, the Memorandum or the Bye-Laws.

Subject to the specification of the above terms of preference shares in a supplement to this prospectus, we anticipate that the terms of such preference shares will correspond to those set forth below.

DIVIDENDS

The holders of preference shares will be entitled to receive dividends, if any, at the rate established in accordance with the Bye-Laws, payable on specified dates each year for the respective dividend periods ending on such dates (dividend periods), when and as declared by our Board of Directors. Such dividends will accrue on each preference share from the first day of the dividend period in which such share is issued or from such other date as the Board may fix for such purpose. All dividends on preference shares will be cumulative. If we do not pay or set apart for payment the dividend, or any part thereof, on the issued and outstanding preference shares for any dividend period, the deficiency in the dividend on the preference shares must thereafter be fully paid or declared and set apart for payment (without interest) before any dividend may be paid or declared and set apart for payment on the common shares. The holders of preference shares will not be entitled to participate in any other or additional earnings or profits of ours, except for such premiums, if any, as may be payable in case of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up.

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form 424B5

Any dividend paid upon the preference shares at a time when any accrued dividends for any prior dividend period are delinquent will be expressly declared to be in whole or partial payment of the accrued dividends to the extent thereof, beginning with the earliest dividend period for which dividends are then wholly or partly delinquent, and will be so designated to each shareholder to whom payment is made.

No dividends will be paid upon any shares of any class or series of preference shares for a current dividend period unless there will have been paid or declared and set apart for payment dividends

Table of Contents

required to be paid to the holders of each other class or series of preference shares for all past dividend periods of such other class or series. If any dividends are paid on any of the preference shares with respect to any past dividend period at any time when less than the total dividends then accumulated and payable for all past dividend periods on all of the preference shares then outstanding are to be paid or declared and set apart for payment, then the dividends being paid will be paid on each class or series of preference shares in the proportions that the dividends then accumulated and payable on each class or series for all past dividend periods bear to the total dividends then accumulated and payable for all past dividend periods on all outstanding preference shares.

LIQUIDATION, DISSOLUTION OR WINDING UP

In case of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the holders of each class or series of preference shares will be entitled to receive out of our assets in money or money's worth the liquidation preference with respect to that class or series of preference shares. These holders will also receive an amount equal to all accrued but unpaid dividends thereon (whether or not earned or declared), before any of our assets will be paid or distributed to holders of common shares.

It is possible that, in case of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, our assets could be insufficient to pay the holders of all of the classes or series of preference shares then outstanding the full, or any, amounts to which they may be entitled. In that circumstance, the holders of each outstanding class or series of preference shares will share ratably in such assets in proportion to the amounts which would be payable with respect to such class or series if all amounts payable thereon were paid in full.

Our amalgamation, consolidation or merger with or into any other corporation, or a sale of all or any part of our assets, will not be deemed to constitute a liquidation, dissolution or winding up.

REDEMPTION

Except as otherwise provided with respect to a particular class or series of preference shares, the following general redemption provisions will apply to each class or series of preference shares.

On or prior to the date fixed for redemption of a particular class or series of preference shares or any part thereof as specified in the notice of redemption for such class or series, we will deposit adequate funds for such redemption, in trust for the account of holders of such class or series, with a bank or trust company that has an office in the U.S., and that has, or is an affiliate of a bank or trust company that has, capital and surplus of at least \$50,000,000. If the name and address of such bank or trust company and the deposit of or intent to deposit the redemption funds in such trust account have been stated in the redemption notice, then from and after the mailing of the notice and the making of such deposit the shares of the class or series called for redemption will no longer be deemed to be outstanding for any purpose whatsoever, and all rights of the holders of such shares in or with respect to us will cease and terminate, except for the right of the holders of the shares:

- (1) to transfer such shares prior to the date fixed for redemption;
- (2) to receive the redemption price of such shares, including accrued but unpaid dividends to the date fixed for redemption, without interest, upon surrender of the certificate or certificates representing the shares to be redeemed; and
- (3) on or before the close of business on the fifth day preceding the date fixed for redemption, to exercise privileges of conversion, if any, not previously expired.

Any moneys so deposited by us which remain unclaimed by the holders of the shares called for redemption and not converted will, at the end of six years after the redemption date, be paid to us upon our request, after which repayment the holders of the shares called for redemption can no longer look to such bank or trust company for the payment of the redemption price but must look only to us for the payment of any lawful claim for such moneys which holders of such shares may still have. After such six-year period, the right of any shareholder or other person to receive such payment may lapse through limitations imposed in the manner and with the effect provided under the law of

Table of Contents

Bermuda. Any portion of the moneys so deposited by us, in respect of preference shares called for redemption that are converted into common shares, will be repaid to us upon our request.

In case of redemption of only a part of a class or series of preference shares, we will designate by lot, in such manner as the Board may determine, the shares to be redeemed, or will effect such redemption pro rata.

CONVERSION RIGHTS

Except as otherwise provided with respect to a particular class or series of preference shares and subject in each case to applicable Bermuda law, the following general conversion provisions will apply to each class or series of preference shares that is convertible into common shares.

All common shares issued upon conversion will be fully paid and nonassessable, and will be free of all taxes, liens and charges with respect to the issue thereof except taxes, if any, payable by reason of issuance in a name other than that of the holder of the shares converted and except as otherwise provided by applicable law or the Bye-Laws.

The number of common shares issuable upon conversion of a particular class or series of preference shares at any time will be the quotient obtained by dividing the aggregate conversion value of the shares of such class or series surrendered for conversion, by the conversion price per share of common shares then in effect for such class or series. We will not be required, however, upon any such conversion, to issue any fractional share of common shares, but instead we will pay to the holder who would otherwise be entitled to receive such fractional share if issued, a sum in cash equal to the value of such fractional share based on the last reported sale price per common share on the New York Stock Exchange at the date of determination. Preference shares will be deemed to have been converted as of the close of business on the date of receipt at the office of the transfer agent of the certificates, duly endorsed, together with written notice by the holder of his election to convert the shares.

Except as otherwise provided with respect to a particular class or series of preference shares and subject in each case to applicable Bermuda law, the Memorandum and the Bye-Laws the basic conversion price per ordinary share for a class or series of preference shares, as fixed by the Board, will be subject to adjustment from time to time as follows:

In case RenaissanceRe (1) pays a dividend or makes a distribution to all holders of outstanding common shares as a class in common shares, (2) subdivides or splits the outstanding common shares into a larger number of shares or (3) combines the outstanding common shares into a smaller number of shares, the basic conversion price per ordinary share in effect immediately prior to that event will be adjusted retroactively so that the holder of each outstanding share of each class or series of preference shares which by its terms is convertible into common shares will thereafter be entitled to receive upon the conversion of such share the number of common shares which that holder would have owned and been entitled to receive after the happening of any of the events described above had such share of such class or series been converted immediately prior to the happening of that event. An adjustment made pursuant to this clause will become effective retroactively immediately after such record date in the case of a dividend or distribution and immediately after the effective date in the case of a subdivision, split or combination. Such adjustments will be made successively whenever any event described in this clause occurs.

In case RenaissanceRe issues to all holders of common shares as a class any rights or warrants enabling them to subscribe for or purchase common shares at a price per share less than the current market price per common share at the record date for determination of shareholders entitled to receive such rights or warrants, the basic conversion price per ordinary share in effect immediately prior thereto for each class or series of preference shares which by its terms is convertible into common shares will be adjusted retroactively by multiplying such basic conversion price by a fraction, of which the numerator will be the sum of the number of common shares outstanding at such record date and the number of common

Table of Contents

shares which the aggregate exercise price (before deduction of underwriting discounts or commissions and other expenses of RenaissanceRe in connection with the issue) of the total number of shares so offered for subscription or purchase would purchase at such current market price per share and of which the denominator will be the sum of the number of common shares outstanding at such record date and the number of additional common shares so offered for subscription or purchase. An adjustment made pursuant to this clause will become effective retroactively immediately after the record date for determination of shareholders entitled to receive such rights or warrants. Such adjustments will be made successively whenever any event described in this clause occurs.

In case RenaissanceRe distributes to all holders of common shares as a class evidences of indebtedness or assets (other than cash dividends), the basic conversion price per ordinary share in effect immediately prior thereto for each class or series of preference shares which by its terms is convertible into common shares will be adjusted retroactively by multiplying such basic conversion price by a fraction, of which the numerator will be the difference between the current market price per ordinary share at the record date for determination of shareholders entitled to receive such distribution and the fair value (as determined by the Board) of the portion of the evidences of indebtedness or assets (other than cash dividends) so distributed applicable to one common share and of which the denominator will be the current market price per common share. An adjustment made pursuant to this clause will become effective retroactively immediately after such record date. Such adjustments will be made successively whenever any event described in this clause occurs.

For the purpose of any computation under the last clause above, the current market price per common share on any date will be deemed to be the average of the high and low sales prices of the common shares, as reported in the New York Stock Exchange Composite Transactions (or such other principal market quotation as may then be applicable to the common shares) for each of the 30 consecutive trading days commencing 45 trading days before such date.

No adjustment will be made in the basic conversion price for any class or series of preference shares in effect immediately prior to such computation if the amount of such adjustment would be less than fifty cents. However, any adjustments which by reason of the preceding sentence are not required to be made will be carried forward and taken into account in any subsequent adjustment. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, any adjustment required for purposes of making the computations described above will be made not later than the earlier of (1) three years after the effective date described above for such adjustment or (2) the date as of which such adjustment would result in an increase or decrease of at least 3% in the aggregate number of common shares issued and outstanding on the first date on which an event occurred which required the making of a computation described above. All calculations will be made to the nearest cent or to the nearest 1/100th of a share, as the case may be.

In the case of any capital reorganization or reclassification of common shares, or if we amalgamate or consolidate with or merge into, or sell or dispose of all or substantially all of our property and assets to, any other corporation, proper provisions will be made as part of the terms of such capital reorganization, reclassification, amalgamation, consolidation, merger or sale that any shares of a particular class or series of preference shares at the time outstanding will thereafter be convertible into the number of shares of stock or other securities or property to which a holder of the number of common shares deliverable upon conversion of such preference shares would have been entitled upon such capital reorganization, reclassification, consolidation or merger.

No dividend adjustment with respect to any preference shares or common shares will be made in connection with any conversion.

Whenever there is an issue of additional common shares requiring a change in the conversion price as provided above, and whenever there occurs any other event which results in a change in the existing conversion rights of the holders of shares of a class or series of preference shares, we will file with our transfer agent or agents, a statement signed by one of our executive officers, describing specifically such issue of additional common shares or such other event (and, in the case of a capital

Table of Contents

reorganization, reclassification, amalgamation, consolidation or merger, the terms thereof) and the actual conversion prices or basis of conversion as changed by such issue or event and the change, if any, in the securities issuable upon conversion. Whenever we issue to all holders of common shares as a class any rights or warrants enabling them to subscribe for or purchase common shares, we will also file in like manner a statement describing the same and the consideration they will receive. The statement so filed will be open to inspection by any holder of record of shares of any class or series of preference shares.

We will at all times have authorized and will at all times reserve and set aside a sufficient number of duly authorized common shares for the conversion of all shares of all then outstanding classes or series of preference shares which are convertible into common shares.

REISSUANCE OF SHARES

Any preference shares retired by purchase, redemption, through conversion, or through the operation of any sinking fund or redemption or purchase account, will have the status of authorized but unissued preference shares, and may be reissued as part of the same class or series or may be reclassified and reissued by the Board in the same manner as any other authorized and unissued preference shares.

VOTING RIGHTS

Except as indicated below or as otherwise required by applicable law, the holders of preference shares will have no voting rights.

Whenever dividends payable on any class or series of preference shares are in arrears in an aggregate amount equivalent to six full quarterly dividends on all of the preference shares of that class or series then outstanding, the holders of preference shares of that class or series, together with the holders of each other class or series of preference shares ranking on a parity with respect to the payment of dividends and amounts upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, will have the right, voting together as a single class regardless of class or series, to elect two directors of our Board. We will use our best efforts to increase the number of directors constituting the Board to the extent necessary to effectuate such right.

Whenever such special voting power of such holders of the preference shares has vested, such right may be exercised initially either at an extraordinary meeting of the holders of preference shares, or at any annual general meeting of shareholders, and thereafter at annual general meetings of shareholders. The right of such holders of preference shares to elect members of the Board will continue until such time as all dividends accumulated on such preference shares have been paid in full, at which time that special right will terminate, subject to revesting in the event of each and every subsequent default in an aggregate amount equivalent to six full quarterly dividends.

At any time when such special voting power has vested in the holders of any such preference shares as described in the preceding paragraph, our President will, upon the written request of the holders of record of at least 10% of such preference shares then outstanding addressed to our Secretary, call a special general meeting of the holders of such preference shares for the purpose of electing directors. Such meeting will be held at the earliest practicable date in such place as may be designated pursuant to the Bye-Laws (or if there be no designation, at our principal office in Bermuda). If such meeting shall not be called by our proper officers within 20 days after our Secretary has been personally served with such request, or within 60 days after mailing the same by registered or certified mail addressed to our Secretary at our principal office, then the holders of record of at least 10% of such preference shares then outstanding may designate in writing one of their number to call such meeting at our expense, and such meeting may be called by such person so designated upon the notice required for annual general meetings of shareholders and will be held in Bermuda, unless we otherwise designate.

Any holder of such preference shares so designated will have access to our register of members for the purpose of causing meetings of shareholders to be called pursuant to these provisions.

Table of Contents

Notwithstanding the foregoing, no such extraordinary meeting will be called during the period within 90 days immediately preceding the date fixed for the next annual general meeting of shareholders.

At any annual or extraordinary meeting at which the holders of such preference shares have the special right, voting separately as a class, to elect directors as described above, the presence, in person or by proxy, of the holders of 50% of such preference shares will be required to constitute a quorum of such preference shares for the election of any director by the holders of such preference shares, voting as a class. At any such meeting or adjournment thereof the absence of a quorum of such preference shares will not prevent the election of directors other than those to be elected by such preference shares, voting as a class, and the absence of a quorum for the election of such other directors will not prevent the election of the directors to be elected by such preference shares, voting as a class.

During any period in which the holders of such preference shares have the right to vote as a class for directors as described above, any vacancies in the Board will be filled by vote of a majority of the Board pursuant to the Bye-Laws. During such period the directors so elected by the holders of such preference shares will continue in office (1) until the next succeeding annual general meeting of shareholders or until their successors, if any, are elected by such holders and qualify or (2) unless required by applicable law to continue in office for a longer period, until termination of the right of the holders of such preference shares to vote as a class for directors, if earlier. If and to the extent permitted by applicable law, immediately upon any termination of the right of the holders of such preference shares to vote as a class for directors as provided herein, the term of office of the directors then in office so elected by the holders of such preference shares will terminate.

Whether or not we are being wound up, the rights attached to any class or series of preference shares may only be varied with the consent in writing of the holders of three-quarters of the issued shares of that class or series, or with the sanction of a special resolution approved by at least a majority of the votes cast by the holders of the shares of that class or series at a separate general meeting in accordance with Section 47(7) of the Companies Act 1981 of Bermuda. The rights attached to any class or series of preference shares will not be deemed to be varied by the creation or issue of any shares or any securities convertible into or evidencing the right to purchase shares ranking prior to or equally with such class or series of the preference shares with respect to the payment of dividends or of assets upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up. Holders of preference shares are not entitled to vote on any amalgamation, consolidation, merger or statutory share exchange, except to the extent that such a transaction would vary the rights attached to any class or series of preference shares, in which case any such variation is subject to the approval process described above. Holders of preference shares are not entitled to vote on any sale of all or substantially all of our assets.

On any item on which the holders of the preference shares are entitled to vote, such holders will be entitled to one vote for each preference share held.

RESTRICTIONS IN EVENT OF DEFAULT IN DIVIDENDS ON PREFERENCE SHARES

Unless we provide otherwise in a prospectus supplement, if at any time we have failed to pay dividends in full on the preference shares, thereafter and until dividends in full, including all accrued and unpaid dividends for all past quarterly dividend periods on the preference shares outstanding, shall have been declared and set apart in trust for payment or paid, or if at any time we have failed to pay in full amounts payable with respect to any obligations to retire preference shares, thereafter and until such amounts shall have been paid in full or set apart in trust for payment:

(1) we may not redeem less than all of the preference shares at such time outstanding unless we obtain the affirmative vote or consent of the holders of at least $66\frac{2}{3}\%$ of the outstanding preference shares given in person or by proxy, either in writing or by resolution adopted at an extraordinary meeting called for the purpose, at which the holders of the preference shares shall vote separately as a class, regardless of class or series;

(2) we may not purchase any preference shares except in accordance with a purchase offer made in writing to all holders of preference shares of all classes or series upon such terms as the

Table of Contents

Board in its sole discretion after consideration of the respective annual dividend rate and other relative rights and preferences of the respective classes or series, will determine (which determination will be final and conclusive) will result in fair and equitable treatment among the respective classes or series; provided that (a) we, to meet the requirements of any purchase, retirement or sinking fund provisions with respect to any class or series, may use shares of such class or series acquired by it prior to such failure and then held by it as treasury stock and (b) nothing will prevent us from completing the purchase or redemption of preference shares for which a purchase contract was entered into for any purchase, retirement or sinking fund purposes, or the notice of redemption of which was initially mailed, prior to such failure; and

(3) we may not redeem, purchase or otherwise acquire, or permit any subsidiary to purchase or acquire any shares of any other class of our stock ranking junior to the preference shares as to dividends and upon liquidation.

PREEMPTIVE RIGHTS

No holder of preference shares, solely by reason of such holding, has or will have any preemptive right to subscribe to any additional issue of shares of any class or series or to any security convertible into such shares.

SERIES B PREFERENCE SHARES

Currently, 4,000,000 of our 7.30% Series B Preference Shares are outstanding. Certain terms of the Series B Preference Shares are summarized below. A more detailed description of the Series B Preference Shares is set forth in our registration statement filed under the Exchange Act on Form 8-A on February 3, 2003, including any amendment or report for the purpose of updating such description. If we issue preference shares in the future, they may, or may not, be on terms similar to the Series B Preference Shares.

Dividends on the Series B Preference Shares are cumulative from the date of original issuance and are payable when, as and if declared by our Board of Directors, quarterly in arrears, in an amount per share equal to 7.30% of the liquidation preference per annum. The Series B Preference Shares rank pari passu to our Series C Preference Shares and our Series D Preference Shares and senior to our common shares with respect to payment of dividends and amounts upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up. Upon liquidation, the holders of the Series B Preference Shares will be entitled to receive from our assets legally available for distribution to shareholders a liquidation preference of \$25 per share, plus accrued and unpaid dividends, if any, to the date of liquidation.

On or after February 4, 2008, we may redeem the Series B Preference Shares, in whole or in part, at any time, at a redemption price of \$25 per share, plus accrued and unpaid dividends, if any, to the date of redemption, without interest. At any time prior to February 4, 2008, if we submit to the holders of our common shares a proposal for an amalgamation or submit any proposal for any other matter that, as a result of any changes in Bermuda law after January 30, 2003, requires for its validation or effectuation an affirmative vote of the holders of preference shares at the time outstanding, voting separately, we have the option to redeem all of the outstanding Series B Preference Shares at a redemption price of \$26 per share, plus accrued and unpaid dividends, if any, to the date of redemption, without interest. The Series B Preference Shares have no stated maturity, are not subject to any sinking fund or mandatory redemption and are not convertible into or exchangeable for any of our other securities.

SERIES C PREFERENCE SHARES

Currently, 10,000,000 of our 6.08% Series C Preference Shares are outstanding. Certain terms of the Series C Preference Shares are summarized below. A more detailed description of the Series C Preference Shares is set forth in our registration statement filed under the Exchange Act on Form 8-A on March 19, 2004, including any amendment or report for the purpose of updating such description. If we issue preference shares in the future, they may, or may not, be on terms similar to the Series C Preference Shares.

Table of Contents

Dividends on the Series C Preference Shares are cumulative from the date of original issuance and are payable when, as and if declared by our Board of Directors, quarterly in arrears, in an amount per share equal to 6.08% of the liquidation preference per annum. The Series C Preference Shares rank pari passu to our Series B Preference Shares and our Series D Preference Shares and senior to our common shares with respect to payment of dividends and amounts upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up. Upon liquidation, the holders of the Series C Preference Shares will be entitled to receive from our assets legally available for distribution to shareholders a liquidation preference of \$25 per share, plus accrued and unpaid dividends, if any, to the date of liquidation.

On or after March 23, 2009, we may redeem the Series C Preference Shares, in whole or in part, at any time, at a redemption price of \$25 per share, plus accrued and unpaid dividends, if any, to the date of redemption, without interest. At any time prior to March 23, 2009, if we submit to the holders of our common shares a proposal for an amalgamation or submit any proposal for any other matter that requires, as a result of any changes in Bermuda law after March 16, 2004, for its validation or effectuation an affirmative vote of the holders of preference shares at the time outstanding, voting separately, we have the option to redeem all of the outstanding Series C Preference Shares at a redemption price of \$26 per share, plus accrued and unpaid dividends, if any, to the date of redemption, without interest. The Series C Preference Shares have no stated maturity, are not subject to any sinking fund or mandatory redemption and are not convertible into or exchangeable for any of our other securities.

SERIES D PREFERENCE SHARES

Currently, 12,000,000 of our 6.60% Series D Preference Shares are outstanding. Certain terms of the Series D Preference Shares are summarized below. A more detailed description of the Series D Preference Shares is set forth in our registration statement filed under the Exchange Act on Form 8-A on December 14, 2006, including any amendment or report for the purpose of updating such description. If we issue preference shares in the future, they may, or may not, be on terms similar to the Series D Preference Shares.

Dividends on the Series D Preference Shares are cumulative from the date of original issuance and are payable when, as and if declared by our Board of Directors, quarterly in arrears, in an amount per share equal to 6.60% of the liquidation preference per annum. The Series D Preference Shares rank pari passu to our Series B Preference Shares and our Series C Preference Shares and senior to our common shares with respect to payment of dividends and amounts upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up. Upon liquidation, the holders of the Series D Preference Shares will be entitled to receive from our assets legally available for distribution to shareholders a liquidation preference of \$25 per share, plus accrued and unpaid dividends, if any, to the date of liquidation.

On or after December 1, 2011, we may redeem the Series D Preference Shares, in whole or in part, at any time, at a redemption price of \$25 per share, plus accrued and unpaid dividends, if any, to the date of redemption, without interest. At any time prior to December 1, 2011, if we submit to the holders of our common shares a proposal for an amalgamation or submit any proposal for any other matter that requires, as a result of any changes in Bermuda law after December 12, 2006, for its validation or effectuation an affirmative vote of the holders of preference shares at the time outstanding, voting separately, we have the option to redeem all of the outstanding Series D Preference Shares at a redemption price of \$26 per share, plus accrued and unpaid dividends, if any, to the date of redemption, without interest. The Series D Preference Shares have no stated maturity, are not subject to any sinking fund or mandatory redemption and are not convertible into or exchangeable for any of our other securities.

TRANSFER AGENT

Our registrar and transfer agent for each of our common shares, Series B Preference Shares, Series C Preference Shares and Series D Preference Shares is Mellon Investor Services, L.L.C.

Table of Contents

TRANSFER OF SHARES

Our Bye-Laws contain various provisions affecting the transferability of our shares. Under the Bye-Laws, the Board has absolute discretion to decline to register a transfer of shares:

- (1) unless the appropriate instrument of transfer is submitted along with such evidence as the Board may reasonably require showing the right of the transferor to make the transfer;
- (2) unless all applicable consents and authorizations of any governmental body or agency in Bermuda have been obtained; or
- (3) if the Board determines that such transfer would result in a person owning or controlling shares that constitute 9.9% or more of any class or series of our issued shares.

The primary purpose for the restriction on a holder of our shares from owning or exercising more than 9.9% of the total voting rights of all our shareholders is to reduce the likelihood that we will be deemed a controlled foreign corporation within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code for U.S. Federal tax purposes. This limit may also have the effect of deterring purchases of large blocks of common shares or proposals to acquire us, even if some or a majority of the shareholders might deem these purchases or acquisition proposals to be in their best interests. With respect to this issue, also see the provisions discussed below under Anti-Takeover Effects of Certain Bye-Law Provisions.

If the Board refuses to register any transfer of shares, our Secretary shall send notice of such refusal to the transferor and transferee within 10 days of the date on which the transfer was lodged with us.

Our Bermuda counsel has advised us that while the precise form of the restrictions on transfers contained in the Bye-Laws is untested, as a matter of general principle, restrictions on transfers are enforceable under Bermuda law and are not uncommon. The transferor of such shares will be deemed to own such shares for dividend, voting and reporting purposes until a transfer of such shares has been registered on our register of members, if at all.

ANTI-TAKEOVER EFFECTS OF CERTAIN BYE-LAW PROVISIONS

Our Bye-Laws contain certain provisions that make it more difficult to acquire control of us by means of a tender offer, open market purchase, a proxy fight or otherwise. These provisions are designed to encourage persons seeking to acquire control of us to negotiate with our directors. We believe that, as a general rule, the interests of our shareholders would be best served if any change in control results from negotiations with our directors. These provisions could have the effect of discouraging a prospective acquiror from making a tender offer or otherwise attempting to obtain control of us. In addition, these Bye-Law provisions could prevent the removal of our current board of directors and management.

In addition to those provisions of the Bye-Laws discussed above under Transfers of Shares, set forth below is a description of certain other provisions of the Bye-Laws. Because the following description is intended as a summary only and is therefore not complete, you should refer to the Bye-Laws, which are incorporated by reference as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part, for complete information regarding these provisions.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR PROVISIONS

Our Bye-Laws provide for a classified board, to which approximately one-third of the Board is elected each year at our annual general meeting of shareholders. Accordingly, our directors serve three-year terms rather than one-year terms. Moreover, our Bye-Laws provide that each director may be removed by the shareholders only for cause upon the affirmative vote of the holders of not less than 66 2/3% of the voting rights attached to all issued and outstanding capital shares entitled to vote for the election of that director. Further, our Bye-Laws fix the size of the Board at eight directors (although the incumbent Board may increase its size to eleven members). In addition, shareholders may only nominate persons for election as director at an annual or special general meeting of

Table of Contents

shareholders called for the purpose of electing directors and only if, among other things, a satisfactory written notice signed by not less than 20 shareholders holding in the aggregate not less than 10% of our outstanding paid up share capital is timely submitted.

We believe that these Bye-Law provisions enhance the likelihood of continuity and stability in the composition of the Board and in the policies formulated by the Board. We believe these provisions assist our Board to represent more effectively the interests of all shareholders, including taking action in response to demands or actions by a minority shareholder or group.

Our classified Board makes it more difficult for shareholders to change the composition of our Board even if some or a majority of the shareholders believe such a change would be desirable. Moreover, these Bye-Law provisions may deter changes in the composition of the Board or certain mergers, tender offers or other future takeover attempts which some or a majority of holders of our securities may deem to be in their best interest.

RESTRICTIONS ON CERTAIN SHAREHOLDER ACTIONS

Our Bye-Laws restrict the ability of our shareholders to take certain actions. These restrictions, among other things, limit the power of our shareholders to:

nominate persons to serve as directors;

submit resolutions to the vote of shareholders at an annual or special general meeting; and

requisition special general meetings.

Generally, the Bye-Laws prohibit shareholders from taking these actions unless certain requirements specified in the Bye-Laws are met. These requirements include the giving of written notice, specifying information that must be provided in connection with the notice or in relation to the requested action, taking of specified actions within specified time periods, and requiring a minimum number of holders to act.

These requirements regulating shareholder nominations and proposals may have the effect of deterring a contest for the election of directors or the introduction of a shareholder proposal if the procedures summarized above are not followed. They may also discourage or deter a third party from conducting a solicitation of proxies to elect its own slate of directors or to introduce a proposal. For a more complete description of these provisions, you should refer to the Bye-Laws, which are incorporated by reference as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

SUPERMAJORITY REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN AMENDMENTS

Our Bye-Laws require the affirmative vote of at least 66²/₃% of the voting rights attached to all of our issued and outstanding capital shares to amend, repeal or adopt any provision inconsistent with several provisions of the Bye-Laws. The provisions include, among others things, those relating to: the size of our Board and its division into classes, the removal of directors, the powers of shareholders to nominate directors, to call shareholder meetings and to propose matters to be acted on at shareholder meetings. This supermajority requirement could make it more difficult for shareholders to propose and adopt changes to the Bye-Laws intended to facilitate the acquisition or exercise of control over us.

AVAILABILITY OF SHARES FOR FUTURE ISSUANCES; SHAREHOLDER RIGHTS PLAN

We have available for issuance a large number of authorized but unissued shares. Generally, these shares may be issued by action of our directors without further action by shareholders (except as may be required by applicable stock exchange requirements). The availability of these shares for issue could be viewed as enabling the directors to make more difficult a change in our control. For example, the directors could determine to issue warrants or rights to acquire shares. In addition, we have authorized a sufficient amount of our shares such that we could put in place a shareholder rights plan without further action by shareholders. A shareholder rights plan could serve to dilute or deter stock ownership of persons seeking to obtain control of us.

Table of Contents

Our ability to take these actions makes it more difficult for a third party to acquire us without negotiating with the Board, even if some or a majority of the shareholders desired to pursue a proposed transaction. Moreover, these powers could discourage or defeat unsolicited stock accumulation programs and acquisition proposals.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF THE DEPOSITARY SHARES

GENERAL

We may, at our option, elect to offer depositary shares, each representing a fraction (to be set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to our common shares or a particular series of preference shares) of a share of a common share or a particular series of preference shares as described below. In the event we elect to do so, depositary receipts evidencing depositary shares will be issued to the public.

The shares of common shares or a class or series of preference shares represented by depositary shares will be deposited under a deposit agreement among us, a depositary selected by us and the holders of the depositary receipts. The depositary will be a bank or trust company having its principal office in the U.S. and having a combined capital and surplus of at least \$50,000,000. Subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, each owner of a depositary share will be entitled, in proportion to the applicable fraction of a common share or preference share represented by such depositary share, to all the rights and preferences of the common shares or preference shares represented thereby (including dividend, voting, redemption and liquidation rights).

The depositary shares will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued pursuant to the deposit agreement. Depositary receipts will be distributed to those persons purchasing the fractional shares of the common shares or related class or series of preference shares in accordance with the terms of the offering described in the related prospectus supplement. If we issue depositary shares we will file copies of the forms of deposit agreement and depositary receipt as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

Pending the preparation of definitive depositary receipts, the depositary may, upon our written order, issue temporary depositary receipts substantially identical to (and entitling the holders thereof to all the rights pertaining to) the definitive depositary receipts but not in definitive form. Definitive depositary receipts will be prepared thereafter without unreasonable delay, and temporary depositary receipts will be exchangeable for definitive depositary receipts without charge to the holder thereof.

The following description of the depositary shares sets forth the material terms and provisions of the depositary shares to which any prospectus supplement may relate. The particular terms of the depositary shares offered by any prospectus supplement, and the extent to which the general provisions described below may apply to the offered securities, will be described in the prospectus supplement.

DIVIDENDS AND OTHER DISTRIBUTIONS

The depositary will distribute all cash dividends or other distributions received in respect of the related common shares or class or series of preference shares to the record holders of depositary shares relating to such common shares or class or series of preference shares in proportion to the number of such depositary shares owned by such holders.

In the event of a distribution other than in cash, the depositary will distribute property received by it to the record holders of depositary shares entitled thereto, unless the depositary determines that it is not feasible to make such distribution, in which case the depositary may, with our approval, sell such property and distribute the net proceeds from such sale to such holders.

WITHDRAWAL OF SHARES

Upon surrender of the depositary receipts at the corporate trust office of the depositary (unless the related depositary shares have previously been called for redemption), the holder of the depositary shares evidenced thereby is entitled to delivery of the number of whole shares of the related common shares or class or series of preference shares and any money or other property represented by such depositary shares. Holders of depositary shares will be entitled to receive whole shares of the related common shares or class or series of preference shares on the basis set forth in

Table of Contents

the prospectus supplement for such common shares or class or series of preference shares, but holders of such whole common shares or preference shares will not thereafter be entitled to exchange them for depositary shares. If the depositary receipts delivered by the holder evidence a number of depositary shares in excess of the number of depositary shares representing the number of whole common shares or preference shares to be withdrawn, the depositary will deliver to such holder at the same time a new depositary receipt evidencing such excess number of depositary shares. In no event will fractional common shares or preference shares be delivered upon surrender of depositary receipts to the depositary.

REDEMPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

Whenever we redeem common shares or preference shares held by the depositary, the depositary will redeem as of the same redemption date the number of depositary shares representing shares of common shares or the related class or series of preference shares so redeemed. The redemption price per depositary share will be equal to the applicable fraction of the redemption price per share payable with respect to such class or series of the common shares or preference shares. If less than all the depositary shares are to be redeemed, the depositary shares to be redeemed will be selected by lot or pro rata as may be determined by the depositary.

VOTING THE COMMON SHARES OR PREFERENCE SHARES

Upon receipt of notice of any meeting at which the holders of the common shares or preference shares are entitled to vote, the depositary will mail the information contained in such notice of meeting to the record holders of the depositary shares relating to such common shares or preference shares. Each record holder of such depositary shares on the record date (which will be the same date as the record date for the common shares or preference shares, as applicable) will be entitled to instruct the depositary as to the exercise of the voting rights pertaining to the amount of the class or series of preference shares or common shares represented by such holder's depositary shares. The depositary will endeavor, insofar as practicable, to vote the number of the common shares or preference shares represented by such depositary shares in accordance with such instructions, and we will agree to take all action which the depositary deems necessary in order to enable the depositary to do so. The depositary will abstain from voting common shares or preference shares to the extent it does not receive specific instructions from the holders of depositary shares representing such common shares or preference shares.

AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION OF THE DEPOSIT AGREEMENT

The form of depositary receipt evidencing the depositary shares and any provision of the deposit agreement may at any time be amended by agreement between us and the depositary. However, any amendment which materially and adversely alters the rights of the holders of depositary receipts will not be effective unless such amendment has been approved by the holders of depositary receipts representing at least a majority (or, in the case of amendments relating to or affecting rights to receive dividends or distributions or voting or redemption rights, 66²/₃%, unless otherwise provided in the related prospectus supplement) of the depositary shares then outstanding. The deposit agreement may be terminated by us or the depositary only if (1) all outstanding depositary shares have been redeemed, (2) there has been a final distribution in respect of the common shares or the related class or series of preference shares in connection with our liquidation, dissolution or winding up and such distribution has been distributed to the holders of depositary receipts or (3) upon the consent of holders of depositary receipts representing not less than 66²/₃% of the depositary shares outstanding.

CHARGES OF DEPOSITARY

We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the depositary arrangements. We will also pay charges of the depositary in connection with the initial deposit of the related common shares or class or series of preference shares and any redemption of such common shares or preference shares. Holders of depositary receipts will pay all other transfer and other taxes and governmental charges and such other charges as are expressly provided in the deposit agreement to be for their accounts.

Table of Contents

The depositary may refuse to effect any transfer of a depositary receipt or any withdrawal of shares of common shares or a class or series of preference shares evidenced thereby until all such taxes and charges with respect to such depositary receipt or such common shares or preference shares are paid by the holders thereof.

MISCELLANEOUS

The depositary will forward all reports and communications from us which are delivered to the depositary and which we are required to furnish to the holders of the common shares or preference shares.

Neither we nor the depositary will be liable if either of us is prevented or delayed by law or any circumstance beyond our control in performing our obligations under the deposit agreement. Our obligations and the obligations of the depositary under the deposit agreement will be limited to performance in good faith of their duties thereunder and neither we nor the depositary will be obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding in respect of any depositary shares or class or series of preference shares unless satisfactory indemnity is furnished. We and the depositary may rely on written advice of counsel or accountants, or information provided by persons presenting preference shares for deposit, holders of depositary shares or other persons believed to be competent and on documents believed to be genuine.

RESIGNATION AND REMOVAL OF DEPOSITARY

The depositary may resign at any time by delivering to us notice of its election to do so, and we may at any time remove the depositary. Any such resignation or removal of the depositary will take effect upon the appointment of a successor depositary, which successor depositary must be appointed within 60 days after delivery of the notice of resignation or removal and must be a bank or trust company having its principal office in the U.S. and having a combined capital and surplus of at least \$50,000,000.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DEBT SECURITIES

We, RenaissanceRe Finance and GUSH may offer debt securities. The following description sets forth the material terms and provisions of the debt securities to which any prospectus supplement may relate. Our senior debt securities are to be issued under a senior indenture between us and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as trustee, which is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part, RenaissanceRe Finance's senior debt securities are to be issued under a senior indenture between RenaissanceRe Finance and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as trustee, which is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part and GUSH's senior debt securities are to be issued under a senior indenture between GUSH and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as trustee, which is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. Our subordinated debt securities are to be issued under a subordinated indenture between us and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as trustee, which is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part, RenaissanceRe Finance's subordinated debt securities are to be issued under a subordinated indenture between RenaissanceRe Finance and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as trustee, which is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part, and GUSH's subordinated debt securities are to be issued under a subordinated indenture between GUSH and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as trustee, which is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. In addition, we, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH may issue junior subordinated debt securities to the Capital Trust in connection with the issuance of preferred securities and common securities by the Capital Trust. These junior subordinated debt securities would be issued under a separate junior subordinated indenture between us, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as trustee, which is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. The senior indentures, the subordinated indentures and the junior subordinated indentures are

Table of Contents

sometimes referred to herein collectively as the indentures and each individually as an indenture. The particular terms of the debt securities offered by any prospectus supplement, and the extent to which the general provisions described below may apply to the offered debt securities, will be described in the prospectus supplement.

Because the following summaries of the material terms and provisions of the indentures and the related debt securities are not complete, you should refer to the forms of the indentures and the debt securities for complete information regarding the terms and provisions of the indentures, including the definitions of some of the terms used below, and the debt securities. Wherever we refer to particular articles, sections or defined terms of an indenture, those articles, sections or defined terms are incorporated herein by reference. Whenever we refer to particular articles, sections or defined terms of an indenture, without specific reference to a indenture, those articles, sections or defined terms are contained in all indentures. The senior indentures and the subordinated indentures are substantially identical, except for provisions relating to subordination. The subordinated indentures and the junior subordinated indentures are substantially identical, except for certain rights and covenants of ours, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, and provisions relating to the issuance of securities to the Capital Trust.

GENERAL

The indentures do not limit the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities which we, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH may issue thereunder and provide that we, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, may issue the debt securities thereunder from time to time in one or more series. (Section 3.1) Unless otherwise described in a prospectus supplement regarding any debt securities, the indentures do not limit the amount of other indebtedness or the debt securities which we or our subsidiaries may issue.

Unless otherwise provided in a prospectus supplement, our, RenaissanceRe Finance's and GUSH's senior debt securities will be unsecured obligations of the respective issuer and will rank equally with all of such issuer's other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness. The subordinated debt securities will be unsecured obligations of the issuer, subordinated in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all Senior Indebtedness (which term includes the senior debt securities) of such issuer as described below under Subordination of the Subordinated Debt Securities of RenaissanceRe, Subordination of the Subordinated Debt Securities of RenaissanceRe Finance, Subordination of the Subordinated Debt Securities of GUSH and in the applicable prospectus supplement. The junior subordinated debt securities will be unsecured obligations of ours, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, subordinated in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all of ours, RenaissanceRe Finance's or GUSH's Senior Indebtedness, as applicable, as described below under Certain Provisions of the Junior Subordinated Debt Securities Issued to the Capital Trust and in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Because we are a holding company, our rights and the rights of our creditors (including the holders of our debt securities and the holders of RenaissanceRe Finance's and/or GUSH's debt securities who are creditors of RenaissanceRe by virtue of our guarantee of the debt securities issued by RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as the case may be) and shareholders to participate in distributions by certain of our subsidiaries upon that subsidiary's liquidation or reorganization or otherwise would be subject to the prior claims of that subsidiary's creditors, except to the extent that we may ourselves be a creditor with recognized claims against that subsidiary or our creditor may have the benefit of a guaranty from our subsidiary. None of our creditors has the benefit of a guaranty from any of our subsidiaries. The rights of our creditors (including the holders of our debt securities and the holders of RenaissanceRe Finance's or GUSH's debt securities who are creditors of RenaissanceRe by virtue of our guarantee of the debt securities issued by RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as the case may be) to participate in the distribution of stock owned by us in certain of our subsidiaries, including our insurance subsidiaries, may also be subject to approval by certain insurance regulatory authorities having jurisdiction over such subsidiaries.

In the event we, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH issue junior subordinated debt securities to the Capital Trust in connection with the issuance of preferred securities and common securities by the

Table of Contents

Capital Trust, such junior subordinated debt securities subsequently may be distributed pro rata to the holders of such preferred securities and common securities in connection with the dissolution of the Capital Trust upon the occurrence of certain events. These events will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to such preferred securities and common securities. Only one series of our junior subordinated debt securities will be issued by us, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, to the Capital Trust in connection with the issuance of preferred securities and common securities by the Capital Trust.

The prospectus supplement relating to the particular debt securities offered thereby will describe the following terms of the offered debt securities:

the title of such debt securities and the series in which such debt securities will be included, which may include medium-term notes;

the aggregate principal amount of such debt securities and any limit upon such principal amount;

the date or dates, or the method or methods, if any, by which such date or dates will be determined, on which the principal of such debt securities will be payable;

the rate or rates at which such debt securities will bear interest, if any, which rate may be zero in the case of certain debt securities issued at an issue price representing a discount from the principal amount payable at maturity, or the method by which such rate or rates will be determined (including, if applicable, any remarketing option or similar method), and the date or dates from which such interest, if any, will accrue or the method by which such date or dates will be determined;

the date or dates on which interest, if any, on such debt securities will be payable and any regular record dates applicable to the date or dates on which interest will be so payable;

the place or places where the principal of, any premium or interest on or any additional amounts with respect to such debt securities will be payable, any of such debt securities that are issued in registered form may be surrendered for registration of transfer or exchange, and any such debt securities may be surrendered for conversion or exchange;

whether any of such debt securities are to be redeemable at the issuer's option and, if so, the date or dates on which, the period or periods within which, the price or prices at which and the other terms and conditions upon which such debt securities may be redeemed, in whole or in part, at the issuer's option;

whether the issuer will be obligated to redeem or purchase any of such debt securities pursuant to any sinking fund or analogous provision or at the option of any holder thereof and, if so, the date or dates on which, the period or periods within which, the price or prices at which and the other terms and conditions upon which such debt securities will be redeemed or purchased, in whole or in part, pursuant to such obligation, and any provisions for the remarketing of such debt securities so redeemed or purchased;

if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof, the denominations in which any debt securities to be issued in registered form will be issuable and, if other than a denomination of \$5,000, the denominations in which any debt securities to be issued in bearer form will be issuable;

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form 424B5

whether the debt securities will be convertible into common shares and/or exchangeable for other securities issued by us, and, if so, the terms and conditions upon which such debt securities will be so convertible or exchangeable;

if other than the principal amount, the portion of the principal amount (or the method by which such portion will be determined) of such debt securities that will be payable upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity thereof;

if other than United States dollars, the currency of payment, including composite currencies, of the principal of, any premium or interest on or any additional amounts with respect to any of such debt securities;

Table of Contents

whether the principal of, any premium or interest on or any additional amounts with respect to such debt securities will be payable, at the issuer's election or the election of a holder, in a currency other than that in which such debt securities are stated to be payable and the date or dates on which, the period or periods within which, and the other terms and conditions upon which, such election may be made;

any index, formula or other method used to determine the amount of payments of principal of, any premium or interest on or any additional amounts with respect to such debt securities;

whether such debt securities are to be issued in the form of one or more global securities and, if so, the identity of the depository for such global security or securities;

whether such debt securities are the senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities and, if the subordinated debt securities, the specific subordination provisions applicable thereto;

in the case of junior subordinated debt securities issued by us, by RenaissanceRe Finance or by GUSH to the Capital Trust, the terms and conditions of any obligation or right of ours, RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH or the Capital Trust to convert or exchange such subordinated debt securities into preferred securities of the Capital Trust;

in the case of junior subordinated debt securities issued by us, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH to the Capital Trust, the form of restated trust agreement and, if applicable, the agreement relating to our guarantee of the preferred securities of the Capital Trust;

in the case of the subordinated debt securities issued by us or by RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, the relative degree, if any, to which such subordinated debt securities of the series will be senior to or be subordinated to other series of the subordinated debt securities or other indebtedness of ours, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, in right of payment, whether such other series of the subordinated debt securities or other indebtedness are outstanding or not;

any deletions from, modifications of or additions to the Events of Default or covenants of the issuer with respect to such debt securities;

whether the provisions described below under "Discharge, Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance" will be applicable to such debt securities;

whether, under what circumstances and in which currency we, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, will pay additional amounts on account of taxes, fees, assessments or governmental charges on the debt securities of a series and if so, whether we, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, will have the option to redeem such debt securities rather than pay such additional amounts;

whether any of such debt securities are to be issued upon the exercise of warrants, and the time, manner and place for such debt securities to be authenticated and delivered; and

any other terms of such debt securities and any other deletions from or modifications or additions to the applicable indenture in respect of such debt securities. (Section 3.1)

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form 424B5

The issuer will have the ability under the indentures to reopen a previously issued series of the debt securities and issue additional debt securities of that series or establish additional terms of that series. The issuer is also permitted to issue debt securities with the same terms as previously issued debt securities. (Section 3.1)

Unless otherwise provided in the related prospectus supplement, principal, premium, interest and additional amounts, if any, with respect to any debt securities will be payable at the office or agency maintained by us, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, for such purposes (initially the corporate trust office of the trustee). In the case of debt securities issued in registered form, interest may be paid by check mailed to the persons entitled thereto at their addresses appearing on the security register or by transfer to an account maintained by the payee with a bank located in the United States. Interest on debt securities issued in registered form will be payable on any interest

Table of Contents

payment date to the persons in whose names the debt securities are registered at the close of business on the regular record date with respect to such interest payment date. Interest on such debt securities which have a redemption date after a regular record date, and on or before the following interest payment date, will also be payable to the persons in whose names the debt securities are so registered. All paying agents initially designated by us, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, for the debt securities will be named in the related prospectus supplement. The issuer may at any time designate additional paying agents or rescind the designation of any paying agent or approve a change in the office through which any paying agent acts, except that the issuer will be required to maintain a paying agent in each place where the principal of, any premium or interest on or any additional amounts with respect to the debt securities are payable. (Sections 3.7, 10.2 and 11.6)

Unless otherwise provided in the related prospectus supplement, the debt securities may be presented for transfer (duly endorsed or accompanied by a written instrument of transfer, if so required by us or the security registrar) or exchanged for other debt securities of the same series (containing identical terms and provisions, in any authorized denominations, and of a like aggregate principal amount) at the office or agency maintained by the issuer for such purposes (initially the corporate trust office of the trustee). Such transfer or exchange will be made without service charge, but the issuer may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge and any other expenses then payable. The issuer will not be required to (1) issue, register the transfer of, or exchange, the debt securities during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of mailing of a notice of redemption of any such debt securities and ending at the close of business on the day of such mailing or (2) register the transfer of or exchange any debt security so selected for redemption in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion of any debt security being redeemed in part. (Section 3.5)

We, RenaissanceRe Finance and GUSH, as the case may be, have each appointed the trustee as security registrar. Any transfer agent (in addition to the security registrar) initially designated by the issuer for any debt securities will be named in the related prospectus supplement. The issuer may at any time designate additional transfer agents or rescind the designation of any transfer agent or approve a change in the office through which any transfer agent acts, except that the issuer will be required to maintain a transfer agent in each place where the principal of, any premium or interest on, or any additional amounts with respect to the debt securities are payable. (Section 10.2)

Unless otherwise provided in the related prospectus supplement, the debt securities will be issued only in fully registered form without coupons in minimum denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof. (Section 3.2) The debt securities may be represented in whole or in part by one or more global debt securities registered in the name of a depository or its nominee and, if so represented, interests in such global debt security will be shown on, and transfers thereof will be effected only through, records maintained by the designated depository and its participants as described below. Where the debt securities of any series are issued in bearer form, the special restrictions and considerations, including special offering restrictions and special U.S. federal income tax considerations, applicable to such debt securities and to payment on and transfer and exchange of such debt securities will be described in the related prospectus supplement.

The debt securities may be issued as original issue discount securities (bearing no interest or bearing interest at a rate which at the time of issuance is below market rates) to be sold at a substantial discount below their principal amount and may for various other reasons be considered to have original issue discount for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In general, original issue discount is included in the income of holders on a yield-to-maturity basis. Accordingly, depending on the terms of the debt securities, holders may be required to include amounts in income prior to the receipt thereof. Special U.S. federal income tax and other considerations applicable to original issue discount securities will be described in the related prospectus supplement.

If the purchase price of any debt securities is payable in one or more foreign currencies or currency units or if any debt securities are denominated in one or more foreign currencies or currency units or if the principal of, or any premium or interest on, or any additional amounts with respect to, any debt securities is payable in one or more foreign currencies or currency units, the restrictions,

Table of Contents

elections, certain U.S. federal income tax considerations, specific terms and other information with respect to such debt securities and such foreign currency or currency units will be set forth in the related prospectus supplement.

The issuer will comply with Section 14(e) under the Exchange Act, and any other tender offer rules under the Exchange Act which may then be applicable, in connection with any obligation of the issuer to purchase debt securities at the option of the holders. Any such obligation applicable to a series of debt securities will be described in the related prospectus supplement.

Unless otherwise described in a prospectus supplement relating to any debt securities, the indentures do not contain any provisions that would limit the issuer's ability to incur indebtedness or that would afford holders of the debt securities protection in the event of a sudden and significant decline in the issuer's credit quality or a takeover, recapitalization or highly leveraged or similar transaction involving us, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH. Accordingly, we, RenaissanceRe Finance and GUSH could in the future enter into transactions that could increase the amount of indebtedness outstanding at that time or otherwise affect our, RenaissanceRe Finance's and/or GUSH's capital structure or credit rating.

You should refer to the prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of the debt securities for information regarding any deletions from, modifications of, or additions to the Events of Defaults described below or the issuer's covenants contained in the respective indenture, including any addition of a covenant or other provisions providing event risk or similar protection.

CONVERSION AND EXCHANGE

The terms, if any, on which debt securities of any series are convertible into or exchangeable for common shares, preference shares or other securities, whether issued by us, property or cash, or a combination of any of the foregoing, will be set forth in the related prospectus supplement. Such terms may include provisions for conversion or exchange, either mandatory, at the option of the holder, or at our, RenaissanceRe Finance's or GUSH's option, as applicable, in which the securities, property or cash to be received by the holders of the debt securities would be calculated according to the factors and at such time as described in the related prospectus supplement. Any such conversion or exchange will comply with applicable Bermuda law, the Memorandum and the Bye-Laws.

CONSOLIDATION, AMALGAMATION, MERGER AND SALE OF ASSETS

Unless otherwise described in a prospectus supplement, each indenture provides that the issuer may not (1) consolidate or amalgamate with or merge into any Person (other than a subsidiary) or convey, transfer or lease its properties and assets as an entirety or substantially as an entirety to any Person (other than a subsidiary), or (2) permit any Person (other than a subsidiary) to consolidate or amalgamate with or merge into the issuer, or convey, transfer or lease its properties and assets as an entirety or substantially as an entirety to the issuer, unless (a) in the case of (1) above, such Person is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the U.S., any state thereof or the District of Columbia, Bermuda, the Cayman Islands or any country which is, on the date of the indenture, a member of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development or the European Union and will expressly assume, by supplemental indenture satisfactory in form to the trustee, the due and punctual payment of the principal of, any premium and interest on and any additional amounts with respect to all of the debt securities issued thereunder, and the performance of the issuer's obligations under such indenture and the debt securities issued thereunder, and provides for conversion or exchange rights in accordance with the provisions of the debt securities of any series that are convertible or exchangeable into common shares or other securities; (b) immediately after giving effect to such transaction, no Event of Default, and no event which after notice or lapse of time or both would become an Event of Default, will have happened and be continuing; and (c) certain other conditions are met (each indenture provides similar restrictions for the guarantor, if any).

EVENTS OF DEFAULT

Unless the issuer provides other or substitute Events of Default in a prospectus supplement, the following events will constitute an Event of Default under the applicable indenture with respect to any

Table of Contents

series of debt securities issued thereunder (whatever the reason for such Event of Default and whether it will be voluntary or involuntary or be effected by operation of law or pursuant to any judgment, decree or order of any court or any order, rule or regulation of any administrative or governmental body):

- (1) default in the payment of any interest on any debt security of such series, or any additional amounts payable with respect thereto, when such interest becomes or such additional amounts become due and payable, and continuance of such default for a period of 60 days;
- (2) default in the payment of the principal of or any premium on any debt security of such series, or any additional amounts payable with respect thereto, when such principal, premium or such additional amounts become due and payable either at maturity, upon any redemption, by declaration of acceleration or otherwise;
- (3) failure to file timely periodic reports with the Commission that continues for 180 days after written notice;
- (4) default by the issuer or the guarantor (if any) in the performance, or breach, of any other covenant or warranty of the issuer or the guarantor (if any) contained in the applicable indenture for the benefit of such series or in the debt securities of such series, and the continuance of such default or breach for a period of 90 days after there has been given written notice as provided in such indenture; and
- (5) certain events relating to bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of the issuer or the guarantor (if any).

If an Event of Default with respect to the debt securities of any series (other than an Event of Default described in clause (5) of the preceding paragraph) occurs and is continuing, either the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series by written notice as provided in the applicable indenture may declare the principal amount (or such lesser amount as may be provided for in the debt securities of such series) of all outstanding debt securities of such series to be due and payable immediately. At any time after a declaration of acceleration has been made, but before a judgment or decree for payment of money has been obtained by the trustee, and subject to applicable law and certain other provisions of the applicable indenture, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of such series may, under certain circumstances, rescind and annul such acceleration. An Event of Default described in clause (5) of the preceding paragraph will cause the principal amount and accrued interest (or such lesser amount as provided for in the debt securities of such series) to become immediately due and payable without any declaration or other act by the trustee or any holder.

Each indenture provides that, within 90 days after the occurrence of any event which is, or after notice or lapse of time or both would become, an Event of Default with respect to the debt securities of any series, the trustee will transmit, in the manner set forth in such indenture and subject to the exceptions described below, notice of such default to the holders of the debt securities of such series unless such default has been cured or waived. However, except in the case of a default in the payment of principal of, or premium, if any, or interest, if any, on, or additional amounts or any sinking fund with respect to, any debt security of such series, the trustee may withhold such notice if and so long as the board of directors or executive committee, as applicable, of the issuer or a trust committee of directors and/or responsible officers of the trustee in good faith determine that the withholding of such notice is in the best interest of the holders of the debt securities of such series. In addition, in the case of any default of the character described in clause (3) or (4) of the second preceding paragraph, no such notice to holders will be given until at least 60 days after the default occurs.

If an Event of Default occurs and is continuing with respect to the debt securities of any series, the trustee may in its discretion proceed to protect and enforce its rights and the rights of the holders of the debt securities of such series by all appropriate judicial proceedings. Each indenture provides that, subject to the duty of the trustee during any default to act with the required standard of care, the trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under such indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders of the debt securities, unless such holders shall have offered

Table of Contents

to the trustee reasonable indemnity. Subject to such provisions for the indemnification of the trustee, and subject to applicable law and certain other provisions of the applicable indenture, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee, with respect to debt securities of such series.

MODIFICATION AND WAIVER

The issuer and the trustee may modify or amend any indenture with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series affected thereby; provided, however, that no such modification or amendment may, without the consent of the holder of each outstanding debt security affected thereby:

change the stated maturity of the principal of, or any premium or installment of interest on, or any additional amounts with respect to, any debt security,

reduce the principal amount of, or the rate (or modify the calculation of such principal amount or rate) of interest on, or any additional amounts with respect to, or any premium payable upon the redemption of, any debt security,

change the issuer's obligation to pay additional amounts with respect to any debt security,

change the redemption provisions of any debt security or, following the occurrence of any event that would entitle a holder to require the issuer to repay any debt security at the option of the holder, adversely affect the right of repayment at the option of such holder, of any affected debt security,

change the place of payment or the coin or currency in which the principal of, any premium or interest on or any additional amounts with respect to, any debt security is payable,

impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on or after the stated maturity of any debt security (or, in the case of redemption, on or after the redemption date or, in the case of repayment at the option of any holder, on or after the repayment date),

reduce the percentage in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities, the consent of whose holders is required in order to take specific actions,

reduce the requirements for quorum or voting by holders of debt securities in the applicable section of each indenture,

modify any of the provisions in the applicable indenture regarding the waiver of past defaults and the waiver of certain covenants by the holders of the debt securities except to increase any percentage vote required or to provide that other provisions of such indenture cannot be modified or waived without the consent of the holder of each debt security affected thereby,

make any change that adversely affects the right to convert or exchange any debt security into or for our common shares or other debt securities or other securities, cash or property in accordance with its terms,

Edgar Filing: RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD - Form 424B5

modify any of the provisions of the subordinated indenture relating to the subordination of the subordinated debt securities in a manner adverse to holders of the subordinated debt securities, or

modify any of the above provisions.

In addition, no supplemental indenture may directly or indirectly modify or eliminate the subordination provisions of the subordinated indenture in any manner which might terminate or impair the subordination of the subordinated debt securities to Senior Indebtedness without the prior written consent of the holders of the Senior Indebtedness.

Table of Contents

The issuer and the trustee may modify or amend any indenture and debt securities of any series without the consent of any holder in order to, among other things:

provide for the issuer's successor pursuant to a consolidation, amalgamation, merger or sale of assets;

add to the issuer's covenants for the benefit of the holders of all or any series of debt securities or to surrender any right or power conferred upon us by the applicable indenture;

provide for a successor trustee with respect to debt securities of all or any series;

cure any ambiguity or correct or supplement any provision in any indenture which may be defective or inconsistent with any other provision, or to make any other provisions with respect to matters or questions arising under any indenture which will not adversely affect the interests of the holders of debt securities of any series issued thereunder in any material respect;

change the conditions, limitations and restrictions on the authorized amount, terms or purposes of issue, authentication and delivery of debt securities under any indenture;

add any additional Events of Default with respect to all or any series of debt securities;

provide for conversion or exchange rights of the holders of any series of debt securities; or

make any other change that does not materially adversely affect the interests of the holders of any debt securities then outstanding under the applicable indenture. (Section 9.1)

The holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of debt securities of any series may, on behalf of the holders of all debt securities of that series, waive compliance by us with certain restrictive provisions of the applicable indenture. (Section 10.7) The holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may, on behalf of the holders of all debt securities of that series, waive any past default and its consequences under the applicable indenture with respect to debt securities of that series, except a default (1) in the payment of principal of, any premium or interest on or any additional amounts with respect to debt securities of that series or (2) in respect of a covenant or provision of the applicable indenture that cannot be modified or amended without the consent of the holder of each debt security of any series. (Section 5.13)

Under each indenture, the issuer is required to furnish the trustee annually a statement as to its performance of certain of its obligations under that indenture and as to any default in such performance. The issuer is also required to deliver to the trustee, within five days after occurrence thereof, written notice of any Event of Default or any event which after notice or lapse of time or both would constitute an Event of Default. (Section 10.8)

DISCHARGE, DEFEASANCE AND COVENANT DEFEASANCE

The issuer may discharge certain obligations to holders of any series of debt securities that have not already been delivered to the trustee for cancellation and that either have become due and payable or will become due and payable within one year (or scheduled for redemption within one year) by depositing with the trustee, in trust, funds in U.S. dollars or in the Foreign Currency in which such debt securities are payable in an amount or Government Obligations (as defined below), or both, applicable to such debt securities which through the scheduled payment of principal and interest in accordance with their terms will provide money in an amount sufficient (without reinvestment) to pay the entire indebtedness on such debt securities with respect to principal and any premium, interest and additional amounts to the date of such deposit (if such debt securities have become due and payable) or with respect to principal, any premium and interest to the maturity or redemption date

thereof, as the case may be. (Section 4.1)

Each indenture provides that, unless the provisions of Section 4.2 thereof are made inapplicable to debt securities of or within any series pursuant to Section 3.1 thereof, the issuer may elect either (1) to defease and be discharged from any and all obligations with respect to such debt securities

Table of Contents

(except for, among other things, the obligation to pay additional amounts, if any, upon the occurrence of certain events of taxation, assessment or governmental charge with respect to payments on such debt securities, if the debt securities of a series provide for the payment of such additional amounts, and other obligations to register the transfer or exchange of such debt securities, to replace temporary or mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen debt securities, to maintain an office or agency with respect to such debt securities and to hold moneys for payment in trust) (defeasance) or (2) to be released from its obligations with respect to such debt securities under certain covenants as described in the related prospectus supplement, and any omission to comply with such obligations will not constitute a default or an Event of Default with respect to such debt securities (covenant defeasance). Defeasance or covenant defeasance, as the case may be, will be conditioned upon the irrevocable deposit by us with the trustee, in trust, of an amount in U.S. dollars or in the Foreign Currency in which such debt securities are payable at stated maturity, or Government Obligations, or both, applicable to such debt securities which through the scheduled payment of principal and interest in accordance with their terms will provide money in an amount sufficient (without reinvestment) to pay the principal of, any premium and interest on such debt securities on the scheduled due dates or any prior redemption date. (Section 4.2)

Such a trust may only be established if, among other things:

- (1) the applicable defeasance or covenant defeasance does not result in a breach or violation of, or constitute a default under or any material agreement or instrument to which the issuer is a party or by which it is bound;
- (2) no Event of Default or event which with notice or lapse of time or both would become an Event of Default with respect to the debt securities to be defeased will have occurred and be continuing on the date of establishment of such a trust after giving effect to such establishment and, with respect to defeasance only, no bankruptcy proceeding will have occurred and be continuing at any time during the period ending on the 91st day after such date;
- (3) with respect to registered securities, the issuer has delivered to the trustee an opinion of counsel (as specified in each indenture) to the effect that the holders of such debt securities will not recognize income, gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a result of such defeasance or covenant defeasance and will be subject to U.S. 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 or covenant defeasance had not occurred, and such opinion of counsel, in the case of defeasance, must refer to and be based upon a letter ruling of the Internal Revenue Service received by the issuer, a Revenue Ruling published by the Internal Revenue Service or a change in applicable U.S. federal income tax law occurring after the date of the applicable indenture; and
- (4) with respect to defeasance, the issuer has delivered to the trustee an officers certificate as to solvency and the absence of intent of preferring holders over other creditors. (Section 4.2)

Foreign Currency means any currency, currency unit or composite currency, including, without limitation, the euro, issued by the government of one or more countries other than the United States of America or by any recognized confederation or association of such governments. (Section 1.1)

Government Obligations means debt securities which are (1) direct obligations of the United States of America or the government or governments or confederation or association of governments which issued the Foreign Currency in which the debt securities of a particular series are payable, in each case, for the payment of which its full faith and credit is pledged or (2) obligations of a Person controlled or supervised by and acting as an agency or instrumentality of the United States of America or such government or governments or confederation or association of governments which issued the Foreign Currency in which the debt securities of such series are payable, in each case, the timely payment of which is unconditionally guaranteed as a full faith and credit obligation by the United States of America or such other government or governments or confederation or association of governments, which, in the case of clauses (1) and (2), are not callable or redeemable at the option of the issuer or issuers thereof, and will also include a depository receipt issued by a bank or trust company as custodian with respect to any such Government Obligation or a specific payment of

Table of Contents

interest on or principal of or any other amount with respect to any such Government Obligation held by such custodian for the account of the holder of such depository receipt, provided that (except as required by law) such custodian is not authorized to make any deduction from the amount payable to the holder of such depository receipt from any amount received by the custodian with respect to the Government Obligation or the specific payment of interest on or principal of or any other amount with respect to the Government Obligation evidenced by such depository receipt. (Section 1.1)

If after the issuer has deposited funds and/or Government Obligations to effect defeasance or covenant defeasance with respect to debt securities of any series, (1) the holder of a debt security of that series is entitled to, and does, elect pursuant to Section 3.1 of the applicable indenture or the terms of such debt security to receive payment in a currency other than that in which such deposit has been made in respect of such debt security, or (2) a Conversion Event (as defined below) occurs in respect of the Foreign Currency in which such deposit has been made, the indebtedness represented by such debt security will be deemed to have been, and will be, fully discharged and satisfied through the payment of the principal of, any premium and interest on, if any, and any additional amounts, if any, with respect to, such debt security as such debt security becomes due out of the proceeds yielded by converting the amount or other properties so deposited in respect of such debt security into the currency in which such debt security becomes payable as a result of such election or such Conversion Event based on (a) in the case of payments made pursuant to clause (1) above, the applicable market exchange rate for such currency in effect on the second business day prior to such payment date, or (b) with respect to a Conversion Event, the applicable market exchange rate for such Foreign Currency in effect (as nearly as feasible) at the time of the Conversion Event. (Section 4.2)

Conversion Event means the cessation of use of (1) a Foreign Currency both by the government of the country or countries which issued such Foreign Currency and for the settlement of transactions by a central bank or other public institutions of or within the international banking community or (2) any currency unit or composite currency for the purposes for which it was established. (Section 1.1)

In the event the issuer effects covenant defeasance with respect to any debt securities and such debt securities are declared due and payable because of the occurrence of any Event of Default other than an Event of Default with respect to any covenant as to which there has been covenant defeasance, the amount in such Foreign Currency in which such debt securities are payable, and Government Obligations on deposit with the trustee, will be sufficient to pay amounts due on such debt securities at the time of the stated maturity or redemption date but may not be sufficient to pay amounts due on such debt securities at the time of the acceleration resulting from such Event of Default. However, the issuer would remain liable to make payment of such amounts due at the time of acceleration.

REDEMPTION

Unless otherwise described in a prospectus supplement relating to any debt securities, other than as described under Certain Provisions of the Junior Subordinated Debt Securities Issued to the Capital Trust, we, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, may, at its option, redeem any series of debt securities, in whole or in part, at any time at the redemption price. Unless otherwise described in a prospectus supplement, debt securities will not be subject to sinking fund or other mandatory redemption or to redemption or repurchase at the option of the holders upon a change of control, a change in management, an asset sale or any other specified event. Neither we, RenaissanceRe Finance nor GUSH currently have any debt securities outstanding that are subject to redemption or repurchase at the option of the holders. We will include appropriate risk factor disclosure in any prospectus supplement prepared in connection with the issuance of debt securities that are subject to redemption or repurchase at the option of the holders.

In the case where debt securities of a series provide for the payment of additional amounts, we, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, may redeem such debt securities at our option, in whole but not in part, at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount, together with accrued and unpaid interest and additional amounts, if any, to the date fixed for redemption, if at any

Table of Contents

time, it receives an opinion of counsel stating that as a result of any change to the laws of any relevant taxing jurisdiction, any action taken by the relevant taxing jurisdiction which action is applied with respect to us, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, or a decision rendered by a court of such relevant taxing jurisdiction, there is a substantial probability that it will be required to pay additional amounts as of the next interest payment date and such requirements cannot be avoided by the use or reasonable measures then available. Any such redemption will be subject to the redemption provisions in each indenture.

Except as otherwise provided in the related prospectus supplement, in the case of any series of junior subordinated debt securities issued by us, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH to the Capital Trust, if an Investment Company Event or a Tax Event (each, a Special Event) shall occur and be continuing, we, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, may, at the option of such issuer, redeem such series of junior subordinated debt securities, in whole but not in part, at any time within 90 days of the occurrence of the special event, at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of such junior subordinated debt securities then outstanding plus accrued and unpaid interest to the date fixed for redemption. (Section 11.8 of the junior subordinated indenture)

For purposes of the junior subordinated indenture, Investment Company Event means, in respect of the Capital Trust, the receipt by the Capital Trust of an opinion of counsel experienced in such matters to the effect that, as a result of the occurrence of a change in law or regulation or a change in the interpretation or application of law or regulation by any legislative body, court or governmental agency or regulatory authority, the Capital Trust is or will be considered an investment company that is required to be registered under the Investment Company Act, which change becomes effective on or after the date of original issuance of the preferred securities of the Capital Trust. (Section 1.1 of the junior subordinated indenture)

Tax Event means, in respect of the Capital Trust, the receipt by us, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, or the Capital Trust of an opinion of counsel experienced in such matters to the effect that, as a result of any amendment to, or change (including any announced prospective change) in, the laws (or any regulation thereunder) of the United States or any political subdivision or taxing authority thereof or therein, or as a result of any official administrative pronouncement or judicial decision interpreting or applying such laws or regulations, which amendment or change is effective or which pronouncement or decision is announced on or after the date of original issuance of the preferred securities of the Capital Trust, there is more than an insubstantial risk that (i) the Capital Trust is, or will be within 90 days of the date of such opinion, subject to U.S. federal income tax with respect to income received or accrued on the corresponding series of junior subordinated debt securities, (ii) interest payable by us, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, on such junior subordinated debt securities is not, or within 90 days of the date of such opinion will not be, deductible by us, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, in whole or in part, for U.S. federal income tax purposes or (iii) the Capital Trust is, or will be within 90 days of the date of such opinion, subject to more than a de minimis amount of other taxes, duties or other governmental charges. (Section 1.1 of the junior subordinated indenture)

Unless otherwise described in a prospectus supplement, notice of any redemption will be mailed at least 30 days but not more than 60 days before the redemption date to each holder of debt securities to be redeemed at its registered address. Unless the issuer defaults in payment of the redemption price, on and after the redemption date, interest will cease to accrue on the debt securities or portions thereof called for redemption.

GLOBAL SECURITIES

The debt securities of a series may be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global debt securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, a depositary identified in the prospectus supplement relating to such series.

The specific terms of the depositary arrangement with respect to a series of the debt securities will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to such series. We, RenaissanceRe Finance and GUSH anticipate that the following provisions will apply to all depositary arrangements.

Table of Contents

Upon the issuance of a global security, the depositary for such global security or its nominee will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the respective principal amounts of the debt securities represented by such global security. Such accounts will be designated by the underwriters or agents with respect to such debt securities or by us if such debt securities are offered and sold directly by us. Ownership of beneficial interests in a global security will be limited to persons that may hold interests through participants. Ownership of beneficial interests in such global security will be shown on, and the transfer of that ownership will be effected only through, records maintained by the depositary or its nominee (with respect to interests of participants) and on the records of participants (with respect to interests of persons other than participants). The laws of some states require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of such securities in definitive form. Such limits and such laws may impair the ability to transfer beneficial interests in a global security.

So long as the depositary for a global security, or its nominee, is the registered owner of such global security, such depositary or such nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner or holder of the debt securities represented by such global security for all purposes under the applicable indenture. Except as described below, owners of beneficial interests in a global security will not be entitled to have the debt securities of the series represented by such global security registered in their names and will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of the debt securities of that series in definitive form.

Principal of, any premium and interest on, and any additional amounts with respect to, the debt securities registered in the name of a depositary or its nominee will be made to the depositary or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owner of the global security representing such debt securities. None of the trustee, any paying agent, the security registrar, us, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests of the global security for such debt securities or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to such beneficial ownership interests.

We, RenaissanceRe Finance and GUSH expect that the depositary for a series of the debt securities or its nominee, upon receipt of any payment with respect to such debt securities, will credit immediately participants' accounts with payments in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interest in the principal amount of the global security for such debt securities as shown on the records of such depositary or its nominee. We, RenaissanceRe Finance and GUSH also expect that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in such global security held through such participants will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers registered in street name, and will be the responsibility of such participants.

The indentures provide that if:

- (1) the depositary for a series of the debt securities notifies the issuer that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depositary or if such depositary ceases to be eligible under the applicable indenture and a successor depositary is not appointed by us within 90 days of written notice;
- (2) the issuer determines that the debt securities of a particular series will no longer be represented by global securities and executes and delivers to the trustee a company order to such effect; or
- (3) an Event of Default with respect to a series of the debt securities has occurred and is continuing,

the global securities will be exchanged for the debt securities of such series in definitive form of like tenor and of an equal aggregate principal amount, in authorized denominations.

Such definitive debt securities will be registered in such name or names as the depositary shall instruct the trustee. (Section 3.5) It is expected that such instructions may be based upon directions received by the depositary from participants with respect to ownership of beneficial interests in global securities.

Table of Contents

PAYMENT OF ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS

If the debt securities of a series provide for the payment of additional amounts on account of taxes, fees, assessments or governmental charges as will be described in the related prospectus supplement, the issuer will pay to the holder of the debt securities of such series the additional amounts as described herein and therein.

The issuer will make all payments of principal of and premium, if any, interest and any other amounts on, or in respect of, the debt securities of any series without withholding or deduction at source for, or on account of, any present or future taxes, fees, duties, assessments or governmental charges of whatever nature imposed or levied by or on behalf of any jurisdiction in which it is organized (a taxing jurisdiction) or any political subdivision or taxing authority thereof or therein, unless such taxes, fees, duties, assessments or governmental charges are required to be withheld or deducted by (x) the laws (or any regulations or rulings promulgated thereunder) of a taxing jurisdiction or any political subdivision or taxing authority thereof or therein or (y) an official position regarding the application, administration, interpretation or enforcement of any such laws, regulations or rulings (including, without limitation, a holding by a court of competent jurisdiction or by a taxing authority in a taxing jurisdiction or any political subdivision thereof). If a withholding or deduction at source is required, the issuer will, subject to certain limitations and exceptions described below, pay to the holder of any such debt security such additional amounts as may be necessary so that every net payment of principal, premium, if any, interest or any other amount made to such holder, after the withholding or deduction, will not be less than the amount provided for in such debt security and the applicable indenture to be then due and payable.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the issuer will not be required to pay any additional amounts for or on account of:

- (1) any tax, fee, duty, assessment or governmental charge of whatever nature which would not have been imposed but for the fact that such holder (a) was a resident, domiciliary or national of, or engaged in business or maintained a permanent establishment or was physically present in, the relevant taxing jurisdiction or any political subdivision thereof or otherwise had some connection with the relevant taxing jurisdiction other than by reason of the mere ownership of, or receipt of payment under, such debt security, (b) presented such debt security for payment in the relevant taxing jurisdiction or any political subdivision thereof, unless such debt security could not have been presented for payment elsewhere, or (c) presented such debt security for payment more than 30 days after the date on which the payment in respect of such debt security became due and payable or provided for, whichever is later, except to the extent that the holder would have been entitled to such additional amounts if it had presented such debt security for payment on any day within that 30-day period;
- (2) any estate, inheritance, gift, sale, transfer, personal property or similar tax, assessment or other governmental charge;
- (3) any tax, assessment or other governmental charge that is imposed or withheld by reason of the failure by the holder or the beneficial owner of such debt security to comply with any reasonable request by the issuer addressed to the holder within 90 days of such request (a) to provide information concerning the nationality, residence or identity of the holder or such beneficial owner or (b) to make any declaration or other similar claim or satisfy any information or reporting requirement, which is required or imposed by statute, treaty, regulation or administrative practice of the relevant taxing jurisdiction or any political subdivision thereof as a precondition to exemption from all or part of such tax, assessment or other governmental charge;
- (4) any withholding or deduction required to be made pursuant to EU Directive no. 2003/48 dated June 3, 2003 (JOUE L 157 published on June 26, 2003) or to any other EU Directive or EU Regulation on the taxation of savings deriving from the conclusions of the European Council Meeting held in Feira on June 19-20, 2000 or of the ECOFIN Council Meetings of November 26-27, 2000, December 13, 2001 and January 21, 2003 or pursuant to any law or regulation implementing or complying with, or introduced in order to conform to, such EU Directives or Regulations;

Table of Contents

(5) any taxes, duties, levies, assessments or governmental charges that are payable otherwise than by withholding from payments in respect of such debt securities; or

(6) any combination of items (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5).

In addition, the issuer will not pay additional amounts with respect to any payment of principal of, or premium, if any, interest or any other amounts on, any such debt security to any holder who is a fiduciary or partnership or other than the sole beneficial owner of such debt security to the extent such payment would be required by the laws of the relevant taxing jurisdiction (or any political subdivision or relevant taxing authority thereof or therein) to be included in the income for tax purposes of a beneficiary or partner or settlor with respect to such fiduciary or a member of such partnership or a beneficial owner who would not have been entitled to such additional amounts had it been the holder of the debt security. (Section 10.4)

As further described above under "Redemption", in certain cases where debt securities of a series provide for the payment of additional amounts, the issuer may redeem such debt securities at its option, in whole but not in part, at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount, together with accrued and unpaid interest and additional amounts, if any, to the date fixed for redemption.

NEW YORK LAW TO GOVERN

The indentures and the debt securities will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York applicable to agreements made or instruments entered into and, in each case, performed in that state.

CERTAIN PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO SUBORDINATED DEBT SECURITIES

SUBORDINATION OF THE SUBORDINATED DEBT SECURITIES ISSUED BY RENAISSANCERE

Our subordinated debt securities will, to the extent set forth in the subordinated indenture, be subordinate in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all our Senior Indebtedness. (Section 16.1 of our subordinated indenture). As of March 31, 2007, we had an aggregate of \$450.0 million principal amount of outstanding Senior Indebtedness. In the event of:

- (1) any insolvency or bankruptcy case or proceeding, or any receivership, liquidation, reorganization or other similar case or proceeding in connection therewith, relative to us or to our creditors, as such, or to our assets; or
- (2) any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or other winding up of ours, whether or not involving insolvency or bankruptcy; or
- (3) any assignment for the benefit of creditors or any other marshalling of assets and liabilities of ours,

then and in any such event the holders of our Senior Indebtedness will be entitled to receive payment in full of all amounts due or to become due on or in respect of all such Senior Indebtedness, or provision will be made for such payment in cash, before the holders of the subordinated debt securities are entitled to receive or retain any payment on account of principal of, or any premium or interest on, or any additional amounts with respect to, subordinated debt securities, and to that end the holders of our Senior Indebtedness will be entitled to receive, for application to the payment thereof, any payment or distribution of any kind or character, whether in cash, property or securities, including any such payment or distribution which may be payable or deliverable by reason of the payment of any other Indebtedness of ours being subordinated to the payment of our subordinated debt securities, which may be payable or deliverable in respect of our subordinated debt securities in any such case, proceeding, dissolution, liquidation or other winding up event. (Section 16.3 of our subordinated indenture)

By reason of such subordination, in the event of our liquidation or insolvency, holders of our Senior Indebtedness and holders of other obligations of ours that are not subordinated to our Senior Indebtedness may recover more, ratably, than the holders of our subordinated debt securities.

Table of Contents

Subject to the payment in full of all Senior Indebtedness of ours, the rights of the holders of our subordinated debt securities will be subrogated to the rights of the holders of our Senior Indebtedness to receive payments or distributions of cash, property or securities of ours applicable to such Senior Indebtedness until the principal of, any premium and interest on, and any additional amounts with respect to, our subordinated debt securities have been paid in full. (Section 16.4 of our subordinated indenture)

No payment of principal (including redemption and sinking fund payments) of or any premium or interest on or any additional amounts with respect to our subordinated debt securities, or payments to acquire such securities (other than pursuant to their conversion), may be made (1) if any Senior Indebtedness of ours is not paid when due and any applicable grace period with respect to such default has ended and such default has not been cured or waived or ceased to exist, or (2) if the maturity of any Senior Indebtedness of ours has been accelerated because of a default. (Section 16.2 of the subordinated indenture)

Our subordinated indenture does not limit or prohibit us from incurring additional Senior Indebtedness, which may include Indebtedness that is senior to our subordinated debt securities, but subordinate to our other obligations. The senior debt securities issued by us will constitute Senior Indebtedness under our subordinated indenture.

For purposes of this section, the term Senior Indebtedness means all Indebtedness of ours outstanding at any time, except:

- (1) the subordinated debt securities and any guarantees thereof;
- (2) Indebtedness as to which, by the terms of the instrument creating or evidencing the same, it is provided that such Indebtedness is subordinated to or ranks equally with our subordinated debt securities;
- (3) Indebtedness of ours to an Affiliate of ours;
- (4) interest accruing after the filing of a petition initiating any bankruptcy, insolvency or other similar proceeding unless such interest is an allowed claim enforceable against us in a proceeding under federal or state bankruptcy laws;
- (5) trade accounts payable; and
- (6) under any junior subordinated indenture, any Indebtedness, including all guarantees, initially issued to (x) the Capital Trust or (y) any trust, partnership or other entity affiliated with us which is a financing vehicle of ours or any Affiliate of ours in connection with an issuance by such entity of preferred securities or other securities which are similar to the preferred securities described under Description of the Trust Preferred Securities below.

Such Senior Indebtedness will continue to be Senior Indebtedness and be entitled to the benefits of the subordination provisions irrespective of any amendment, modification or waiver of any term of such Senior Indebtedness. (Sections 1.1 and 16.8 of our subordinated indenture)

Our subordinated indenture provides that the foregoing subordination provisions, insofar as they relate to any particular issue of our subordinated debt securities, may be changed prior to such issuance. Any such change would be described in the related prospectus supplement.

SUBORDINATION OF THE SUBORDINATED DEBT SECURITIES ISSUED BY RENAISSANCERE FINANCE

Subordinated debt securities issued by RenaissanceRe Finance will, to the extent set forth in the subordinated indenture of RenaissanceRe Finance, be subordinate in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all Senior Indebtedness of RenaissanceRe Finance. (Section 16.1 of the RenaissanceRe Finance subordinated indenture). As of March 31, 2007, RenaissanceRe Finance has no outstanding Senior Indebtedness. In the event of:

- (1) any insolvency or bankruptcy case or proceeding, or any receivership, liquidation, reorganization or other similar case or proceeding in connection therewith, relative to RenaissanceRe Finance or to its creditors, as such, or to its assets; or

Table of Contents

(2) any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or other winding up of RenaissanceRe Finance, whether or not involving insolvency or bankruptcy; or

(3) any assignment for the benefit of creditors or any other marshalling of assets and liabilities of RenaissanceRe Finance,

then and in any such event the holders of Senior Indebtedness of RenaissanceRe Finance will be entitled to receive payment in full of all amounts due or to become due on or in respect of all Senior Indebtedness of RenaissanceRe Finance, or provision will be made for such payment in cash, before the holders of the subordinated debt securities of RenaissanceRe Finance are entitled to receive or retain any payment on account of principal of, or any premium or interest on, or any additional amounts with respect to, subordinated debt securities of RenaissanceRe Finance, and to that end the holders of Senior Indebtedness of RenaissanceRe Finance will be entitled to receive, for application to the payment thereof, any payment or distribution of any kind or character, whether in cash, property or securities, including any such payment or distribution which may be payable or deliverable by reason of the payment of any other Indebtedness of RenaissanceRe Finance being subordinated to the payment of subordinated debt securities of RenaissanceRe Finance, which may be payable or deliverable in respect of such subordinated debt securities in any such case, proceeding, dissolution, liquidation or other winding up event. (Section 16.3 of the RenaissanceRe Finance subordinated indenture)

By reason of such subordination, in the event of the liquidation or insolvency of RenaissanceRe Finance, holders of Senior Indebtedness and holders of other obligations of RenaissanceRe Finance that are not subordinated to such Senior Indebtedness may recover more, ratably, than the holders of subordinated debt securities of RenaissanceRe Finance.

Subject to the payment in full of all Senior Indebtedness of RenaissanceRe Finance, the rights of the holders of subordinated debt securities of RenaissanceRe Finance will be subrogated to the rights of the holders of such Senior Indebtedness to receive payments or distributions of cash, property or securities of RenaissanceRe Finance applicable to such Senior Indebtedness until the principal of, any premium and interest on, and any additional amounts with respect to, such subordinated debt securities have been paid in full. (Section 16.4 of the RenaissanceRe Finance subordinated indenture)

No payment of principal (including redemption and sinking fund payments) of or any premium or interest on or any additional amounts with respect to the subordinated debt securities of RenaissanceRe Finance, or payments to acquire such securities (other than pursuant to their conversion), may be made (1) if any Senior Indebtedness of RenaissanceRe Finance is not paid when due and any applicable grace period with respect to such default has ended and such default has not been cured or waived or ceased to exist, or (2) if the maturity of any Senior Indebtedness of RenaissanceRe Finance has been accelerated because of a default. (Section 16.2 of the RenaissanceRe Finance subordinated indenture)

The RenaissanceRe Finance subordinated indenture does not limit or prohibit RenaissanceRe Finance from incurring additional Senior Indebtedness, which may include Indebtedness that is senior to subordinated debt securities, but subordinate to RenaissanceRe Finance's other obligations. The senior debt securities issued by RenaissanceRe Finance will constitute Senior Indebtedness under the RenaissanceRe Finance subordinated indenture.

For purposes of this section, the term "Senior Indebtedness" means all Indebtedness of RenaissanceRe Finance outstanding at any time, except:

(1) the subordinated debt securities issued by RenaissanceRe Finance;

(2) Indebtedness of RenaissanceRe Finance as to which, by the terms of the instrument creating or evidencing the same, it is provided that such Indebtedness is subordinated to or ranks equally with the subordinated debt securities;

(3) Indebtedness of RenaissanceRe Finance to any of its Affiliates;

(4) interest accruing after the filing of a petition initiating any bankruptcy, insolvency or other similar proceeding unless such interest is an allowed claim enforceable against RenaissanceRe Finance in a proceeding under federal or state bankruptcy laws;

Table of Contents

(5) trade accounts payable; and

(6) under the junior subordinated indenture, any Indebtedness, including all other debt securities and guarantees in respect of those debt securities, initially issued to (x) the Capital Trust or (y) any trust, partnership or other entity affiliated with RenaissanceRe Finance which is a financing vehicle of RenaissanceRe Finance or any of its Affiliate in connection with an issuance by such entity of preferred securities or other securities which are similar to the preferred securities described under Description of the Trust Preferred Securities below.

Such Senior Indebtedness will continue to be Senior Indebtedness of RenaissanceRe Finance and be entitled to the benefits of the subordination provisions irrespective of any amendment, modification or waiver of any term of such Senior Indebtedness. (Sections 1.1 and 16.8 of the RenaissanceRe Finance subordinated indenture)

The RenaissanceRe Finance subordinated indenture provides that the foregoing subordination provisions, insofar as they relate to any particular issue of subordinated debt securities of RenaissanceRe Finance, may be changed prior to such issuance. Any such change would be described in the related prospectus supplement.

SUBORDINATION OF THE SUBORDINATED DEBT SECURITIES ISSUED BY GUSH

Subordinated debt securities issued by GUSH will, to the extent set forth in the subordinated indenture of GUSH, be subordinate in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all Senior Indebtedness of GUSH. (Section 16.1 of the GUSH subordinated indenture). As of March 31, 2007, GUSH had no outstanding Senior Indebtedness. In the event of:

- (1) any insolvency or bankruptcy case or proceeding, or any receivership, liquidation, reorganization or other similar case or proceeding in connection therewith, relative to GUSH or to its creditors, as such, or to its assets; or
- (2) any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or other winding up of GUSH, whether or not involving insolvency or bankruptcy; or
- (3) any assignment for the benefit of creditors or any other marshalling of assets and liabilities of GUSH,

then and in any such event the holders of Senior Indebtedness of GUSH will be entitled to receive payment in full of all amounts due or to become due on or in respect of all Senior Indebtedness of GUSH, or provision will be made for such payment in cash, before the holders of the subordinated debt securities of GUSH are entitled to receive or retain any payment on account of principal of, or any premium or interest on, or any additional amounts with respect to, subordinated debt securities of GUSH, and to that end the holders of Senior Indebtedness of GUSH will be entitled to receive, for application to the payment thereof, any payment or distribution of any kind or character, whether in cash, property or securities, including any such payment or distribution which may be payable or deliverable by reason of the payment of any other Indebtedness of GUSH being subordinated to the payment of subordinated debt securities of GUSH, which may be payable or deliverable in respect of such subordinated debt securities in any such case, proceeding, dissolution, liquidation or other winding up event. (Section 16.3 of the GUSH subordinated indenture)

By reason of such subordination, in the event of the liquidation or insolvency of GUSH, holders of Senior Indebtedness and holders of other obligations of GUSH that are not subordinated to such Senior Indebtedness may recover more, ratably, than the holders of subordinated debt securities of GUSH.

Subject to the payment in full of all Senior Indebtedness of GUSH, the rights of the holders of subordinated debt securities of GUSH will be subrogated to the rights of the holders of such Senior Indebtedness to receive payments or distributions of cash, property or securities of GUSH applicable to such Senior Indebtedness until the principal of, any premium and interest on, and any additional amounts with respect to, such subordinated debt securities have been paid in full. (Section 16.4 of the GUSH subordinated indenture)

Table of Contents

No payment of principal (including redemption and sinking fund payments) of or any premium or interest on or any additional amounts with respect to the subordinated debt securities of GUSH, or payments to acquire such securities (other than pursuant to their conversion), may be made (1) if any Senior Indebtedness of GUSH is not paid when due and any applicable grace period with respect to such default has ended and such default has not been cured or waived or ceased to exist, or (2) if the maturity of any Senior Indebtedness of GUSH has been accelerated because of a default. (Section 16.2 of the GUSH subordinated indenture)

The GUSH subordinated indenture does not limit or prohibit GUSH from incurring additional Senior Indebtedness, which may include Indebtedness that is senior to subordinated debt securities, but subordinate to GUSH's other obligations. The senior debt securities issued by GUSH will constitute Senior Indebtedness under the GUSH subordinated indenture.

For purposes of this section, the term Senior Indebtedness means all Indebtedness of GUSH outstanding at any time, except:

- (1) the subordinated debt securities issued by GUSH;
- (2) Indebtedness of GUSH as to which, by the terms of the instrument creating or evidencing the same, it is provided that such Indebtedness is subordinated to or ranks equally with the subordinated debt securities;
- (3) Indebtedness of GUSH to any of its Affiliates;
- (4) interest accruing after the filing of a petition initiating any bankruptcy, insolvency or other similar proceeding unless such interest is an allowed claim enforceable against GUSH in a proceeding under federal or state bankruptcy laws;
- (5) trade accounts payable; and
- (6) under the junior subordinated indenture, any Indebtedness, including all other debt securities and guarantees in respect of those debt securities, initially issued to (x) the Capital Trust or (y) any trust, partnership or other entity affiliated with GUSH which is a financing vehicle of GUSH or any of its Affiliates in connection with an issuance by such entity of preferred securities or other securities which are similar to the preferred securities described under Description of the Trust Preferred Securities below.

Such Senior Indebtedness will continue to be Senior Indebtedness of GUSH and be entitled to the benefits of the subordination provisions irrespective of any amendment, modification or waiver of any term of such Senior Indebtedness. (Sections 1.1 and 16.8 of the GUSH subordinated indenture)

The GUSH subordinated indenture provides that the foregoing subordination provisions, insofar as they relate to any particular issue of subordinated debt securities of GUSH, may be changed prior to such issuance. Any such change would be described in the related prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE JUNIOR SUBORDINATED DEBT

SECURITIES ISSUED TO THE CAPITAL TRUST

OPTION TO EXTEND INTEREST PAYMENT DATE

Unless provided otherwise in the related prospectus supplement, we, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, will have the right at any time and from time to time during the term of any series of junior subordinated debt securities issued to the Capital Trust to defer payment of interest for such number of consecutive interest payment periods as may be specified in the related prospectus supplement (referred to as an extension period), subject to the terms, conditions and covenants, if any, specified in such prospectus supplement, provided that such extension period may not extend beyond the stated maturity of such series of junior subordinated debt securities. Certain U.S. federal income tax consequences and special considerations applicable to such junior subordinated debt securities will be described in the related prospectus supplement. (Section 3.11 of the junior subordinated indenture).

OPTION TO EXTEND MATURITY DATE

Unless provided otherwise in the related prospectus supplement, we, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, will have the right to:

- (1) change the stated maturity of the principal of the junior subordinated debt securities of any series issued to the Capital Trust upon the liquidation of the Capital Trust and the exchange of the junior subordinated debt securities for the preferred securities of the Capital Trust;
- (2) extend the stated maturity of the principal of the junior subordinated debt securities of any series, provided that (a) it is not in bankruptcy, otherwise insolvent or in liquidation, (b) it has not defaulted on any payment on such junior subordinated debt securities and no deferred interest payments have accrued, (c) the Capital Trust is not in arrears on payments of distributions on the Capital Trust's preferred securities and no deferred distributions have accumulated, (d) the junior subordinated debt securities of such series are rated investment grade by Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, Moody's Investors Service, Inc. or another nationally recognized statistical rating organization, and (e) the extended stated maturity is no later than the 49th anniversary of the initial issuance of the preferred securities of the Capital Trust.

If we, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, exercise our or its right to liquidate the Capital Trust and exchange the junior subordinated debt securities for the preferred securities of the Capital Trust as described above, any changed stated maturity of the principal of the junior subordinated debt securities shall be no earlier than the date that is five years after the initial issue date of the preferred securities and no later than the date 30 years (plus an extended term of up to an additional 19 years if the conditions described above are satisfied) after the initial issue date of the preferred securities of the Capital Trust. (Section 3.14 of the junior subordinated indenture)

PAYMENT OF ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS

If junior subordinated debt securities issued to the Capital Trust in connection with the issuance of preferred securities and common securities by the Capital Trust provide for the payment by us, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, of certain taxes, assessments or other governmental charges imposed on the holder of any such debt security, we, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, will pay to the holder of any such debt security such additional amounts as provided in the related junior subordinated indenture. (Section 10.4 of the junior subordinated indenture)

CERTAIN COVENANTS

RenaissanceRe, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH (as applicable), as issuer, and RenaissanceRe, as guarantor (if applicable) will each covenant, as to each series of our, RenaissanceRe Finance's or GUSH's junior subordinated debt securities issued to the Capital Trust in connection with the issuance

Table of Contents

of preferred securities and common securities by the Capital Trust, that the issuer of the junior subordinated debentures will not, and will not permit any of its Subsidiaries to, (1) declare or pay any dividends or distributions on, or redeem, purchase, acquire or make a liquidation payment with respect to, any of its outstanding capital stock or (2) make any payment of principal, or interest or premium, if any, on or repay, repurchase or redeem any debt security of the issuer of the junior subordinated debentures or RenaissanceRe that ranks junior in interest to the junior subordinated debt securities or the related guarantee, as the case may be, or make any guarantee payments with respect to any guarantee by the issuer of the junior subordinated debentures or RenaissanceRe, as the case may be, of the debt securities of any Subsidiary of the issuer of the junior subordinated debentures or RenaissanceRe, as the case may be, if such guarantee ranks junior in interest to the junior subordinated debt securities or the guarantee in respect thereof, as the case may be (other than (a) dividends or distributions in our common shares, (b) redemptions or purchases of any rights outstanding under a shareholder rights plan of RenaissanceRe, or the declaration of a dividend of such rights or the issuance of shares under such plan in the future, (c) payments under any preferred securities guarantee of RenaissanceRe and (d) purchases of common shares related to the issuance of common shares under any of our benefit plans for our directors, officers or employees) if at such time (i) there shall have occurred any event of which we, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as the case may be, have actual knowledge that (A) with the giving of notice or lapse of time or both, would constitute an Event of Default under the applicable junior subordinated indenture and (B) in respect of which RenaissanceRe, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, shall not have taken reasonable steps to cure, (ii) RenaissanceRe shall be in default with respect to its payment of obligations under the preferred securities guarantee relating to such preferred securities or (iii) the issuer of the junior subordinated debt securities shall have given notice of its election to begin an Extension Period as provided in the applicable junior subordinated indenture with respect to the junior subordinated debt securities of such series and shall not have rescinded such notice, or such Extension Period, or any extension thereof, shall be continuing. (Section 10.10 of the junior subordinated indenture)

In the event we, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, issue junior subordinated debt securities to the Capital Trust in connection with the issuance of preferred securities and common securities of the Capital Trust, for so long as such series of junior subordinated debt securities remain outstanding, we, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, will also covenant:

- (1) to maintain ownership by RenaissanceRe Finance, directly or indirectly, of 100% ownership of the common securities of the Capital Trust; provided, however, that any permitted successor of RenaissanceRe Finance under the applicable junior subordinated indenture may succeed to ownership of such common securities;
- (2) not to voluntarily dissolve, wind-up or liquidate such trust, except in connection with the distribution of its junior subordinated debt securities to the holders of preferred securities and common securities in liquidation of the Capital Trust, the redemption of all of the preferred securities and common securities of the Capital Trust, or certain mergers, consolidations or amalgamations, each as permitted by the restated trust agreement of the Capital Trust; and
- (3) to use its reasonable efforts, consistent with the terms of the related trust agreement, to cause the Capital Trust to remain classified as a grantor trust for United States Federal income tax purposes. (Section 10.12 of the junior subordinated indenture)

EVENTS OF DEFAULT

If an Event of Default with respect to a series of junior subordinated debt securities issued to the Capital Trust has occurred and is continuing and such event is attributable to a default in the payment of interest or principal on the related junior subordinated debt securities on the date such interest or principal is otherwise payable, a holder of preferred securities of the Capital Trust may institute a legal proceeding directly against us, as issuer or guarantor, or RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as the case may be, which we refer to in this prospectus as a Direct Action, for enforcement of payment to such holder of the principal of or interest on such related junior subordinated debt

Table of Contents

securities having a principal amount equal to the aggregate liquidation amount of the related preferred securities of such holder. Neither we nor RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as the case may be, may amend the applicable junior subordinated indenture to remove the foregoing right to bring a Direct Action without the prior written consent of the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate liquidation amount of the preferred securities of such trust. If the right to bring a Direct Action is removed, the Capital Trust may become subject to the reporting obligations under the Exchange Act. We, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as the case may be, will have the right under the junior subordinated indenture to set-off any payment made to such holder of preferred securities by us, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, in connection with a Direct Action. (Section 3.12 of the junior subordinated indenture) The holders of preferred securities will not be able to exercise directly any other remedy available to the holders of the related junior subordinated debt securities.

The holders of the preferred securities would not be able to exercise directly any remedies other than those set forth in the preceding paragraph available to the holders of the junior subordinated debt securities unless there shall have been an event of default under the applicable restated trust agreement. See Description of the Trust Preferred Securities Events of Default; Notice. (Section 5.8 of the junior subordinated indenture)

DESCRIPTION OF THE DEBT SECURITIES GUARANTEES

Concurrently with any issuance by RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH of its senior debt securities, we will execute and deliver a senior debt securities guarantee for the benefit of the holders from time to time of such senior debt securities. Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas will act as indenture trustee under the senior debt securities guarantee for the purposes of compliance with the Trust Indenture Act. The senior debt securities guarantee will be qualified as an indenture under the Trust Indenture Act. Similarly, concurrently with any issuance by RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH of its subordinated debt securities, we will execute and deliver a subordinated debt securities guarantee for the benefit of the holders from time to time of such subordinated debt securities. Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas will act as indenture trustee under the subordinated debt securities guarantee for the purposes of compliance with the Trust Indenture Act. The subordinated debt securities guarantee will be qualified as an indenture under the Trust Indenture Act. Concurrently with any issuance by RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH of junior subordinated debt securities to the Capital Trust, we will execute and deliver a junior subordinated debt securities guarantee for the benefit of the holders from time to time of such junior subordinated debt securities. Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas will act as indenture trustee under the junior subordinated debt securities guarantees for the purposes of compliance with the Trust Indenture Act. The junior subordinated debt securities guarantees will be qualified as indentures under the Trust Indenture Act.

The following summary sets forth the material terms and provisions of our guarantee of RenaissanceRe Finance's senior debt securities, subordinated debt securities and junior subordinated debt securities and GUSH's senior debt securities, subordinated debt securities and junior subordinated debt securities. The following summary of certain provisions of the guarantees is not complete. You should read the forms of guarantee and the Trust Indenture Act for more complete information regarding the provisions of the guarantees, including the definitions of some of the terms used below. The forms of guarantee have been incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part and are incorporated by reference in this summary. Whenever we refer to particular sections or defined terms of the guarantees, such sections or defined terms are incorporated herein by reference, and the statement in connection with which such reference is made is qualified in its entirety by such reference. The indenture trustee, as guarantee trustee under each guarantee, will hold the applicable guarantee for the benefit of the holders of the related debt securities.

GENERAL

We will fully and unconditionally guarantee all obligations of RenaissanceRe Finance and/or GUSH under the applicable indenture and the related debt securities. Unless otherwise provided in a prospectus supplement, each guarantee will be an unsecured obligation of RenaissanceRe, and the

Table of Contents

guarantees of RenaissanceRe Finance's subordinated and junior subordinated debt securities and GUSH's subordinated and junior subordinated debt securities will be subordinated in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all of our Senior Indebtedness.

Because we are a holding company, our rights and the rights of our creditors (including the holders of our debt securities and the holders of RenaissanceRe Finance's and/or GUSH's debt securities who are creditors of RenaissanceRe by virtue of our guarantee of the debt securities issued by RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as the case may be) and shareholders to participate in distributions by certain of our subsidiaries upon that subsidiary's liquidation or reorganization or otherwise would be subject to the prior claims of that subsidiary's creditors, except to the extent that we may ourselves be a creditor with recognized claims against that subsidiary or our creditor may have the benefit of a guaranty from our subsidiary. None of our creditors has the benefit of a guaranty from any of our subsidiaries. The rights of our creditors (including the holders of our debt securities and the holders of RenaissanceRe Finance's or GUSH's debt securities who are creditors of RenaissanceRe by virtue of our guarantee of the debt securities issued by RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as the case may be) to participate in the distribution of stock owned by us in certain of our subsidiaries, including our insurance subsidiaries, may also be subject to approval by certain insurance regulatory authorities having jurisdiction over such subsidiaries.

We will make all payments of principal of and premium, if any, interest and any other amounts on, or in respect of, the debt securities of any series without withholding or deduction at source for, or on account of, any present or future taxes, fees, duties, assessments or governmental charges of whatever nature imposed or levied by or on behalf of any jurisdiction in which it is organized (a taxing jurisdiction) or any political subdivision or taxing authority thereof or therein, unless such taxes, fees, duties, assessments or governmental charges are required to be withheld or deducted by (x) the laws (or any regulations or rulings promulgated thereunder) of a taxing jurisdiction or any political subdivision or taxing authority thereof or therein or (y) an official position regarding the application, administration, interpretation or enforcement of any such laws, regulations or rulings (including, without limitation, a holding by a court of competent jurisdiction or by a taxing authority in a taxing jurisdiction or any political subdivision thereof). If a withholding or deduction at source is required, the issuer will, subject to certain limitations and exceptions described below, pay to the holder of any such debt security such additional amounts as may be necessary so that every net payment of principal, premium, if any, interest or any other amount made to such holder, after the withholding or deduction, will not be less than the amount provided for in such debt security and the applicable indenture to be then due and payable.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, we will not be required to pay any additional amounts for or on account of:

(1) any tax, fee, duty, assessment or governmental charge of whatever nature which would not have been imposed but for the fact that such holder (a) was a resident, domiciliary or national of, or engaged in business or maintained a permanent establishment or was physically present in, the relevant taxing jurisdiction or any political subdivision thereof or otherwise had some connection with the relevant taxing jurisdiction other than by reason of the mere ownership of, or receipt of payment under, such debt security, (b) presented such debt security for payment in the relevant taxing jurisdiction or any political subdivision thereof, unless such debt security could not have been presented for payment elsewhere, or (c) presented such debt security for payment more than 30 days after the date on which the payment in respect of such debt security became due and payable or provided for, whichever is later, except to the extent that the holder would have been entitled to such additional amounts if it had presented such debt security for payment on any day within that 30-day period;

(2) any estate, inheritance, gift, sale, transfer, personal property or similar tax, assessment or other governmental charge;

(3) any tax, assessment or other governmental charge that is imposed or withheld by reason of the failure by the holder or the beneficial owner of such debt security to comply with any reasonable request by the issuer addressed to the holder within 90 days of such request (a) to

Table of Contents

provide information concerning the nationality, residence or identity of the holder or such beneficial owner or (b) to make any declaration or other similar claim or satisfy any information or reporting requirement, which is required or imposed by statute, treaty, regulation or administrative practice of the relevant taxing jurisdiction or any political subdivision thereof as a precondition to exemption from all or part of such tax, assessment or other governmental charge;

(4) any withholding or deduction required to be made pursuant to EU Directive no. 2003/48 dated June 3, 2003 (JOUE L 157 published on June 26, 2003) or to any other EU Directive or EU Regulation on the taxation of savings deriving from the conclusions of the European Council Meeting held in Feira on June 19-20, 2000 or of the ECOFIN Council Meetings of November 26-27, 2000, December 13, 2001 and January 21, 2003 or pursuant to any law or regulation implementing or complying with, or introduced in order to conform to, such EU Directives or Regulations;

(5) any taxes, duties, levies, assessments or governmental charges that are payable otherwise than by withholding from payments in respect of such debt securities; or

(6) any combination of items (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5).

In addition, we will not pay additional amounts with respect to any payment of principal of, or premium, if any, interest or any other amounts on, any such debt security to any holder who is a fiduciary or partnership or other than the sole beneficial owner of such debt security to the extent such payment would be required by the laws of the relevant taxing jurisdiction (or any political subdivision or relevant taxing authority thereof or therein) to be included in the income for tax purposes of a beneficiary or partner or settlor with respect to such fiduciary or a member of such partnership or a beneficial owner who would not have been entitled to such additional amounts had it been the holder of the debt security. (Section 10.4 of the RenaissanceRe Finance and GUSH indentures)

WAIVER OF EVENTS OF DEFAULT

The holders of not less than a majority of the outstanding principal amount of RenaissanceRe Finance's or GUSH's senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities, as the case may be, may, by vote, on behalf of all such holders, waive any past event of default of RenaissanceRe and its consequences on any of its payment or other obligations under the senior or subordinated debt securities guarantee agreement, as applicable.

The holders of a majority in liquidation preference of the preferred securities issued by the Capital Trust may, by vote, on behalf of all holders, waive any past event of default of RenaissanceRe and its consequences on any of its payment or other obligations under the junior subordinated debt securities guarantee agreement.

AMENDMENTS

Any senior debt securities guarantee or subordinated debt securities guarantee may only be amended in writing with the prior approval of the holders of not less than a majority of the outstanding principal amount of the applicable debt securities. In addition, certain amendments affecting the obligations of RenaissanceRe may only be made in writing with the prior approval of each holder.

Any junior subordinated debt securities guarantee may only be amended in writing with the prior approval of the holders of at least a majority in liquidation preference of the then outstanding preferred securities issued by the Capital Trust. In addition, certain amendments affecting the obligations of RenaissanceRe may only be made in writing with the prior approval of each holder of the then outstanding preferred securities issued by the Capital Trust.

No consent of the holders of RenaissanceRe Finance's or GUSH's senior, subordinated or junior subordinated debt securities, as the case may be, is required to amend the applicable guarantee in a way that does not adversely affect in any material respect the rights of such holders.

Table of Contents

INFORMATION CONCERNING THE TRUSTEE

RenaissanceRe, RenaissanceRe Finance and GUSH may from time to time borrow from, maintain deposit accounts with and conduct other banking transactions with Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas (f/k/a Bankers Trust Company) and its affiliates in the ordinary course of business.

Under each indenture, Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas is required to transmit annual reports to all holders regarding its eligibility and qualifications as trustee under the applicable indenture and related matters.

DESCRIPTION OF THE WARRANTS TO PURCHASE COMMON SHARES OR

PREFERENCE SHARES

The following statements with respect to the common share warrants and preference share warrants are summaries of, and subject to, the detailed provisions of a share warrant agreement to be entered into by us and a share warrant agent to be selected at the time of issue. The particular terms of any warrants offered by any prospectus supplement, and the extent to which the general provisions described below may apply to the offered securities, will be described in the prospectus supplement.

GENERAL

The share warrants, evidenced by share warrant certificates, may be issued under the share warrant agreement independently or together with any other securities offered by any prospectus supplement and may be attached to or separate from such other offered securities. If share warrants are offered, the related prospectus supplement will describe the designation and terms of the share warrants, including without limitation the following:

the offering price, if any;

the designation and terms of the common shares or preference shares purchasable upon exercise of the share warrants;

if applicable, the date on and after which the share warrants and the related offered securities will be separately transferable;

the number of common shares or preference shares purchasable upon exercise of one share warrant and the initial price at which such shares may be purchased upon exercise;

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

a discussion of certain U.S. federal income tax considerations;

the call provisions, if any;

the currency, currencies or currency units in which the offering price, if any, and exercise price are payable;

the antidilution provisions of the share warrants; and

any other terms of the share warrants.

The common shares or preference shares issuable upon exercise of the share warrants will, when issued in accordance with the share warrant agreement, be fully paid and nonassessable.

EXERCISE OF STOCK WARRANTS

Share warrants may be exercised by surrendering to the share warrant agent the share warrant certificate with the form of election to purchase on the reverse thereof duly completed and signed by the warrant holder, or its duly authorized agent (such signature to be guaranteed by a bank or trust company, by a broker or dealer which is a member of the National Association of Securities Dealers,

Table of Contents

Inc. or by a member of a national securities exchange), indicating the warrant holder's election to exercise all or a portion of the share warrants evidenced by the certificate. Surrendered share warrant certificates shall be accompanied by payment of the aggregate exercise price of the share warrants to be exercised, as set forth in the related prospectus supplement, in lawful money of the United States, unless otherwise provided in the related prospectus supplement. Upon receipt thereof by the share warrant agent, the share warrant agent will requisition from the transfer agent for the common shares or the preference shares, as the case may be, for issuance and delivery to or upon the written order of the exercising warrant holder, a certificate representing the number of common shares or preference shares purchased. If less than all of the share warrants evidenced by any share warrant certificate are exercised, the share warrant agent shall deliver to the exercising warrant holder a new share warrant certificate representing the unexercised share warrants.

ANTIDILUTION AND OTHER PROVISIONS

The exercise price payable and the number of common shares or preference shares purchasable upon the exercise of each share warrant and the number of share warrants outstanding will be subject to adjustment in certain events, including the issuance of a stock dividend to holders of common shares or preference shares, respectively, or a combination, subdivision or reclassification of common shares or preference shares, respectively. In lieu of adjusting the number of common shares or preference shares purchasable upon exercise of each share warrant, we may elect to adjust the number of share warrants. No adjustment in the number of shares purchasable upon exercise of the share warrants will be required until cumulative adjustments require an adjustment of at least 1% thereof. We may, at our option, reduce the exercise price at any time. No fractional shares will be issued upon exercise of share warrants, but we will pay the cash value of any fractional shares otherwise issuable. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in case of our consolidation, merger, or sale or conveyance of our property as an entirety or substantially as an entirety, the holder of each outstanding share warrant shall have the right to the kind and amount of shares of stock and other securities and property (including cash) receivable by a holder of the number of common shares or preference shares into which such share warrants were exercisable immediately prior thereto.

NO RIGHTS AS SHAREHOLDERS

Holders of share warrants will not be entitled, by virtue of being such holders, to vote, to consent, to receive dividends, to receive notice as shareholders with respect to any meeting of shareholders for the election of our directors or any other matter, or to exercise any rights whatsoever as our shareholders.

DESCRIPTION OF THE WARRANTS TO PURCHASE DEBT SECURITIES

The following statements with respect to the debt warrants are summaries of, and subject to, the detailed provisions of a debt warrant agreement to be entered into by us and a debt warrant agent to be selected at the time of issue. The debt warrant agreement may include or incorporate by reference standard warrant provisions substantially in the form of the Standard Debt Warrant Provisions filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. The particular terms of any warrants offered by any prospectus supplement, and the extent to which the general provisions described below may apply to the offered securities, will be described in the prospectus supplement.

GENERAL

The debt warrants, evidenced by debt warrant certificates, may be issued under the debt warrant agreement independently or together with any other securities offered by any prospectus supplement and may be attached to or separate from such other offered securities. If debt warrants are offered, the related prospectus supplement will describe the designation and terms of the debt warrants, including without limitation the following:

the offering price, if any;

the designation, aggregate principal amount and terms of the debt securities purchasable upon exercise of the debt warrants;

Table of Contents

if applicable, the date on and after which the debt warrants and the related offered securities will be separately transferable;

the principal amount of debt securities purchasable upon exercise of one debt warrant and the price at which such principal amount of debt securities may be purchased upon exercise;

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

a discussion of certain U.S. federal income tax considerations;

whether the warrants represented by the debt warrant certificates will be issued in registered or bearer form;

the currency, currencies or currency units in which the offering price, if any, and exercise price are payable;

the antidilution provisions of the debt warrants; and

any other terms of the debt warrants.

Warrantholders will not have any of the rights of holders of debt securities, including the right to receive the payment of principal of, any premium or interest on, or any additional amounts with respect to, the debt securities or to enforce any of the covenants of the debt securities or the applicable indenture except as otherwise provided in the applicable indenture.

EXERCISE OF DEBT WARRANTS

Debt warrants may be exercised by surrendering the debt warrant certificate at the office of the debt warrant agent, with the form of election to purchase on the reverse side of the debt warrant certificate properly completed and executed (with signature(s) guaranteed by a bank or trust company, by a broker or dealer which is a member of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. or by a member of a national securities exchange), and by payment in full of the exercise price, as set forth in the related prospectus supplement. Upon the exercise of debt warrants, we, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, will issue the debt securities in authorized denominations in accordance with the instructions of the exercising warrant holder. If less than all of the debt warrants evidenced by the debt warrant certificate are exercised, a new debt warrant certificate will be issued for the remaining number of debt warrants.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TRUST PREFERRED SECURITIES

The Capital Trust will be governed by the terms of the restated trust agreement. Under the restated trust agreement of the Capital Trust, the Capital Trust may issue, from time to time, only one series of preferred securities. The preferred securities will have the terms set forth in the restated trust agreement or made a part of the restated trust agreement by the Trust Indenture Act, and described in the related prospectus supplement. These terms will mirror the terms of the junior subordinated debt securities issued by us, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH and purchased by the Capital Trust using the proceeds from the sale of its preferred securities and its common securities. The junior subordinated debt securities issued by RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH to the Capital Trust will, in the case of junior subordinated debt securities issued by RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, be guaranteed by us or by RenaissanceRe on a subordinated basis and are referred to as the corresponding junior subordinated debt securities relating to the Capital Trust. See Use of Proceeds.

The following summary sets forth the material terms and provisions of the restated trust agreement and the preferred securities to which any prospectus supplement relates. Because this summary is not complete, you should refer to the form of restated trust agreement and to the Trust Indenture Act for complete information regarding the terms and provisions of that agreement and the preferred securities, including the definitions of some of the terms used below. The form of restated trust agreement filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part

Table of Contents

is incorporated by reference in this summary. Whenever we refer to particular sections or defined terms of a restated trust agreement, such sections or defined terms are incorporated herein by reference.

ISSUANCE, STATUS AND GUARANTEE OF PREFERRED SECURITIES

Under the terms of the restated trust agreement for the Capital Trust, the Administrative Trustees will issue the preferred securities on behalf of the Capital Trust. The preferred securities will represent preferred beneficial interests in the Capital Trust and the holders of the preferred securities will be entitled to a preference in certain circumstances as regards distributions and amounts payable on redemption or liquidation over the common securities of the Capital Trust, as well as other benefits under the corresponding restated trust agreement. The preferred securities of the Capital Trust will rank equally, and payments will be made on the preferred securities pro rata, with the common securities of the Capital Trust except as described under Subordination of Common Securities. The Property Trustee will hold legal title to the corresponding junior subordinated debt securities in trust for the benefit of the holders of the related preferred securities and common securities. The common securities and the preferred securities of the Capital Trust are collectively referred to as the trust securities of the Capital Trust.

We will issue a guarantee agreement for the benefit of the holders of the Capital Trust's preferred securities (the preferred securities guarantee for those preferred securities). Under each preferred securities guarantee, we will guarantee on a subordinated basis payment of distributions on the related preferred securities and amounts payable on redemption or liquidation of such preferred securities, but only to the extent that the Capital Trust has funds on hand to make such payments. See Description of the Trust Preferred Securities Guarantee.

DISTRIBUTIONS

Distributions on the preferred securities will be cumulative, will accumulate from the original issue date and will be payable on the dates as specified in the related prospectus supplement. In the event that any date on which distributions are payable on the preferred securities is not a Business Day, payment of the distribution payable on such date will be made on the next succeeding day that is a Business Day (and without any additional distributions or other payment in respect of any such delay), except that, if such Business Day is in the next succeeding calendar year, payment of such distribution shall be made on the immediately preceding Business Day, in each case with the same force and effect as if made on the date such payment was originally payable (each date on which distributions are payable in accordance with the foregoing, a distribution date). (Section 4.1) A Business Day is any day other than a Saturday or a Sunday, or a day on which banking institutions in The City of New York are authorized or required by law or executive order to remain closed or a day on which the corporate trust office of the Property Trustee or the trustee for the corresponding junior subordinated debt securities is closed for business. (Section 1.1)

Distributions on each preferred security will be payable at a rate specified in the related prospectus supplement. The amount of distributions payable for any period will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months unless otherwise specified in the related prospectus supplement. Distributions to which holders of preferred securities are entitled will accumulate additional distributions at the rate per annum if and as specified in the related prospectus supplement. (Section 4.1) References to distributions include any such additional distributions unless otherwise stated.

If provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, we, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, have the right under the applicable subordinated indenture to defer the payment of interest at any time or from time to time on any series of corresponding junior subordinated debt securities for an Extension Period which will be specified in the related prospectus supplement. No Extension Period may extend beyond the stated maturity of the corresponding junior subordinated debt securities. See Description of the Debt Securities Option to Extend Interest Payment Date. As a consequence of any such extension, distributions on the corresponding preferred securities would

Table of Contents

be deferred (but would continue to accumulate additional distributions at the rate per annum set forth in the prospectus supplement for such preferred securities) by the Capital Trust which issued such preferred securities during any such Extension Period. (Section 4.1)

The funds of the Capital Trust available for distribution to holders of its preferred securities will be limited to payments under the corresponding junior subordinated debt securities in which the Capital Trust will invest the proceeds from the issuance and sale of its trust securities. If none of RenaissanceRe, as issuer or guarantor, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as the case may be, makes interest payments on those corresponding junior subordinated debt securities, the Property Trustee will not have funds available to pay distributions on the related preferred securities. The payment of distributions (if and to the extent the Capital Trust has funds legally available for the payment of such distributions and cash sufficient to make such payments) is guaranteed by us on a limited basis as set forth herein under Description of the Trust Preferred Securities Guarantee.

Distributions on the preferred securities will be payable to the holders thereof as they appear on the register of the Capital Trust on the relevant record dates. As long as the preferred securities remain in book-entry form, the record dates will be fifteen (15) Business Days prior to the relevant distribution dates. Subject to any applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of the applicable restated trust agreement, each distribution payment will be made as described under Global Preferred Securities. In the event any preferred securities are not in book-entry form, the relevant record date for such preferred securities will be the date at least 15 days prior to the relevant distribution date, as specified in the related prospectus supplement. (Section 4.1)

REDEMPTION OR EXCHANGE

Mandatory Redemption. Upon any repayment or redemption, in whole or in part, of any corresponding junior subordinated debt securities held by the Capital Trust, whether at stated maturity, upon earlier redemption or otherwise, the proceeds from such repayment or redemption shall simultaneously be applied by the Property Trustee, upon not less than 30 nor more than 60 days notice to holders of trust securities, to redeem, on a pro rata basis, preferred securities and common securities having an aggregate stated liquidation amount equal to the aggregate principal amount of the corresponding junior subordinated debt securities so repaid or redeemed. The redemption price per trust security will be equal to the stated liquidation amount thereof plus accumulated and unpaid distributions thereon to the date of redemption, plus the related amount of premium, if any, and any additional amounts paid by us upon the concurrent repayment or redemption of the corresponding junior subordinated debt securities (the redemption price). (Section 4.2) If less than all of any series of corresponding junior subordinated debt securities are to be repaid or redeemed on a redemption date, then the proceeds from such repayment or redemption shall be allocated to the redemption pro rata of the related preferred securities and the common securities. (Section 4.2)

We, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, will have the right to redeem any series of corresponding junior subordinated debt securities (1) at any time, in whole but not in part, upon the occurrence of a Special Event and subject to the further conditions described under Description of the Debt Securities Redemption, or (2) as may be otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Special Event Redemption or Distribution of Corresponding Junior Subordinated Debt Securities. If a Special Event relating to the preferred securities and common securities of the Capital Trust shall occur and be continuing, we, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, have the right to redeem the corresponding junior subordinated debt securities, in whole but not in part, and thereby cause a mandatory redemption of such preferred securities and common securities, in whole but not in part, at the redemption price within 90 days following the occurrence of the Special Event. At any time, we, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, have the right to dissolve the Capital Trust and after satisfaction of the liabilities of creditors of the Capital Trust as provided by applicable law, cause such corresponding junior subordinated debt securities to be distributed to the holders of such preferred securities and common securities in liquidation of the Capital Trust. If we, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, do not elect to redeem the corresponding junior

Table of Contents

subordinated debt securities upon the occurrence of a Special Event, the applicable preferred securities will remain outstanding, and in the event a Tax Event has occurred and is continuing, Additional Sums may be payable on the corresponding junior subordinated debt securities.

Additional Sums means the additional amounts as may be necessary in order that the amount of distributions then due and payable by the Capital Trust on the outstanding preferred securities and common securities of the Capital Trust shall not be reduced as a result of any additional taxes, duties and other governmental charges to which the Capital Trust has become subject as a result of a Tax Event. (Section 1.1)

Except with respect to certain other circumstances, on and after the date on which junior subordinated debentures are distributed to holders of Trust Preferred Securities in connection with the dissolution and liquidation of the Capital Trust as a result of an early termination event:

(1) the trust securities will no longer be deemed to be outstanding;

(2) certificates representing a like amount of junior subordinated debt will be issued to the holders of trust securities certificates, upon surrender of such certificates to the administrative trustees or their agent for exchange;

(3) we, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, will use our or its reasonable efforts to have the junior subordinated debt listed or traded on such stock exchange, interdealer quotation system and/or other self-regulatory organization as the trust preferred securities are then listed or traded;

(4) any trust securities certificates not so surrendered for exchange will be deemed to represent a like amount of junior subordinated debt, accruing interest at the rate provided for in the junior subordinated debt from the last distribution date on which a distribution was made on such trust securities certificates until such certificates are so surrendered (and until such certificates are so surrendered, no payments of interest or principal will be made to holders of trust securities certificates with respect to such junior subordinated debt); and

(5) all rights of security holders holding trust securities will cease, except the right of such securityholders to receive junior subordinated debt upon surrender of trust securities certificates. (Section 9.4(d))

An early termination event, within the meaning of this section, means (1) certain events relating to the dissolution or bankruptcy of RenaissanceRe, as issuer or guarantor, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, (2) the direction of the property trustee to dissolve the trust and exchange the trust securities for junior subordinated debt, (3) the redemption of the trust securities in connection with the redemption of all junior subordinated debt or (4) a court order to dissolve the Capital Trust.

There can be no assurance as to the market prices for the preferred securities or the corresponding junior subordinated debt securities that may be distributed in exchange for preferred securities if a dissolution and liquidation of the Capital Trust were to occur. Accordingly, the preferred securities that you may purchase, or the corresponding junior subordinated debt securities that you may receive on dissolution and liquidation of the Capital Trust, may trade at a discount to the price that you paid to purchase the preferred securities.

REDEMPTION PROCEDURES

The Capital Trust may redeem preferred securities on each redemption date at the redemption price with the applicable proceeds from the contemporaneous redemption of the corresponding junior subordinated debt securities. The Capital Trust may redeem preferred securities and the redemption price shall be payable on each redemption date only to the extent that the Capital Trust has funds on hand available for the payment of such redemption price. See also Subordination of Common Securities.

If the Capital Trust gives a notice of redemption (which notice will be irrevocable) in respect of its preferred securities, then, by 12:00 noon, New York City time, on the redemption date, to the extent funds are available, the Property Trustee will deposit irrevocably with the depository for the

Table of Contents

preferred securities funds sufficient to pay the applicable redemption price and will give the depository irrevocable instructions and authority to pay the redemption price to the holders of such preferred securities. If such preferred securities are no longer in book-entry form, the Property Trustee, to the extent funds are available, will irrevocably deposit with the paying agent for such preferred securities funds sufficient to pay the applicable redemption price and will give such paying agent irrevocable instructions and authority to pay the redemption price to the holders thereof upon surrender of their certificates evidencing such preferred securities. Notwithstanding the foregoing, distributions payable on or prior to the redemption date for any preferred securities called for redemption shall be payable to the holders of such preferred securities on the relevant record dates for the related distribution dates. If notice of redemption shall have been given and funds deposited as required, then immediately prior to the close of business on the date of such deposit, all rights of the holders of such preferred securities so called for redemption will cease, except the right of the holders of such preferred securities to receive the redemption price, but without interest, and such preferred securities will cease to be outstanding. In the event that any date on which any redemption price is payable is not a Business Day, then payment of the redemption price payable on such date will be made on the next succeeding day which is a Business Day (and without any interest or other payment in respect of any such delay), except that, if such Business Day falls in the next calendar year, such payment will be made on the immediately preceding Business Day, in each case with the same force and effect as if made on such date. In the event that payment of the redemption price in respect of preferred securities called for redemption is improperly withheld or refused and not paid either by the Capital Trust or by us pursuant to the preferred securities guarantee as described under Description of the Trust Preferred Securities Guarantee, distributions on such preferred securities will continue to accumulate at the then applicable rate, from the redemption date originally established by the Capital Trust for such preferred securities to the date such redemption price is actually paid, in which case the actual payment date will be the date fixed for redemption for purposes of calculating the redemption price.

Subject to applicable law (including, without limitation, U.S. federal securities law), we or our subsidiaries (including RenaissanceRe Finance and GUSH) may at any time and from time to time purchase outstanding preferred securities by tender, in the open market or by private agreement.

The Capital Trust will pay the redemption price on the preferred securities to the applicable recordholders as they appear on the register for such preferred securities on the relevant record date, which shall be fifteen (15) Business Days prior to the relevant redemption date; provided, however, that in the event that any preferred securities are not in book-entry form, the relevant record date for such preferred securities shall be a date at least 15 days prior to the redemption date, as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

If the Capital Trust redeems less than all of the preferred securities and common securities issued by it on a redemption date, then the aggregate liquidation amount of such preferred securities and common securities to be redeemed shall be allocated pro rata to the preferred securities and the common securities based upon the relative liquidation amounts of such classes. The particular preferred securities to be redeemed shall be selected on a pro rata basis not more than 60 days prior to the redemption date by the Property Trustee from the outstanding preferred securities not previously called for redemption, or by such other method as the Property Trustee shall deem fair and appropriate. The Property Trustee shall promptly notify the trust registrar in writing of the preferred securities selected for redemption and, in the case of any preferred securities selected for partial redemption, the liquidation amount thereof to be redeemed. For all purposes of each restated trust agreement, unless the context otherwise requires, all provisions relating to the redemption of preferred securities shall relate, in the case of any preferred securities redeemed or to be redeemed only in part, to the portion of the liquidation amount of preferred securities which has been or is to be redeemed.

Notice of any redemption will be mailed at least 30 days but not more than 60 days before the redemption date to each holder of trust securities to be redeemed at its registered address. Unless RenaissanceRe, as issuer or as guarantor, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, defaults in payment of the redemption price on the corresponding junior subordinated debt securities, on and

Table of Contents

after the redemption date interest will cease to accrue on such subordinated debt securities or portions thereof (and distributions will cease to accrue on the related preferred securities or portions thereof) called for redemption. (Section 4.2)

SUBORDINATION OF COMMON SECURITIES

Payment of distributions on, and the redemption price of, the Capital Trust's preferred securities and common securities, as applicable, shall be made pro rata based on the liquidation amount of such preferred securities and common securities; provided, however, that if on any distribution date or redemption date an event of default under the corresponding junior subordinated debt securities shall have occurred and be continuing, no payment of any distribution on, or redemption price of, any of the Capital Trust's common securities, and no other payment on account of the redemption, liquidation or other acquisition of such common securities, shall be made unless payment in full in cash of all accumulated and unpaid distributions on all of the Capital Trust's outstanding preferred securities for all distribution periods terminating on or prior thereto, or in the case of payment of the redemption price the full amount of such redemption price on all of the Capital Trust's outstanding preferred securities then called for redemption, shall have been made or provided for, and all funds available to the Property Trustee shall first be applied to the payment in full in cash of all distributions on, or redemption price of, the Capital Trust's preferred securities then due and payable.

In the case of any Event of Default under the restated trust agreement resulting from an event of default under the corresponding junior subordinated debt securities, the holder of the Capital Trust's common securities will be deemed to have waived any right to act with respect to any such Event of Default under the applicable restated trust agreement until the effect of all such Events of Default with respect to such preferred securities have been cured, waived or otherwise eliminated. Until any such Events of Default under the applicable restated trust agreement with respect to the preferred securities have been so cured, waived or otherwise eliminated, the Property Trustee shall act solely on behalf of the holders of such preferred securities and not on behalf of the holder of the Capital Trust's common securities, and only the holders of such preferred securities will have the right to direct the Property Trustee to act on their behalf. (Section 4.3)

LIQUIDATION DISTRIBUTION UPON DISSOLUTION OF THE CAPITAL TRUST

Pursuant to the restated trust agreement, the Capital Trust shall automatically dissolve upon expiration of its term and shall dissolve on the first to occur of:

- (1) certain events relating to the dissolution or bankruptcy of RenaissanceRe, as issuer or as guarantor, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable;
- (2) the distribution to the holders of its trust securities of corresponding junior subordinated debt securities having an aggregate principal amount equal to the aggregate stated liquidation amount of the trust securities, if we, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as the case may be, as Depositor have given written direction to the Property Trustee to dissolve the Capital Trust (which direction is optional and wholly within its discretion, as Depositor);
- (3) the redemption of all of the Capital Trust's trust securities in connection with the redemption of all the junior subordinated debt; or
- (4) the entry of an order for the dissolution of the Capital Trust by a court of competent jurisdiction. (Section 9.2)

If an early dissolution occurs as described in clause (1), (2) or (4) above or upon the date designated for automatic dissolution of the Capital Trust, the Capital Trust shall be liquidated by the Capital Trustees as expeditiously as the Capital Trustees determine to be possible by distributing, after satisfaction of liabilities to creditors of the Capital Trust as provided by applicable law, to the holders of such trust securities corresponding junior subordinated debt securities having an aggregate principal amount equal to the aggregate stated liquidation amount of the trust securities. However, if such distribution is determined by the Property Trustee not to be practical, such holders will be entitled to

Table of Contents

receive out of the assets of the Capital Trust available for distribution to holders, after satisfaction of liabilities to creditors of the Capital Trust as provided by applicable law, an amount equal to, in the case of holders of preferred securities, the aggregate of the liquidation amount plus accumulated and unpaid distributions thereon to the date of payment (such amount being the Liquidation Distribution). If such Liquidation Distribution can be paid only in part because the Capital Trust has insufficient assets available to pay in full the aggregate Liquidation Distribution, then the amounts payable directly by the Capital Trust on its preferred securities shall be paid on a pro rata basis. Holders of the Capital Trust's common securities will be entitled to receive distributions upon any such liquidation pro rata with the holders of its preferred securities, except that if an event of default under the corresponding junior subordinated debt securities has occurred and is continuing, the preferred securities shall have a priority over the common securities. (Section 9.4)

EVENTS OF DEFAULT; NOTICE

Any one of the following events constitutes an Event of Default under each restated trust agreement with respect to the applicable preferred securities (whatever the reason for such Event of Default and whether it shall be voluntary or involuntary or be effected by operation of law or pursuant to any judgment, decree or order of any court or any order, rule or regulation of any administrative or governmental body):

- (1) the occurrence of an event of default in respect of the corresponding junior subordinated debt securities (see Description of the Debt Securities Events of Default);
- (2) default by the Property Trustee in the payment of any distribution when it becomes due and payable, and continuation of such default for a period of 30 days;
- (3) default by the Property Trustee in the payment of any redemption price of any trust security when it becomes due and payable;
- (4) default in the performance, or breach, in any material respect, of any covenant or warranty of the Capital Trustees in such restated trust agreement (other than a covenant or warranty a default in the performance of which or the breach of which is dealt with in clause (2) or (3) above), and continuation of such default or breach for a period of 60 days after there has been given, by registered or certified mail, to the defaulting Capital Trustee or Trustees by the holders of at least 25% in aggregate liquidation preference of the outstanding preferred securities of the Capital Trust, a written notice specifying such default or breach and requiring it to be remedied and stating that such notice is a Notice of Default under such restated trust agreement; or
- (5) the occurrence of certain events of bankruptcy or insolvency with respect to the Property Trustee and the failure by the holder of the common securities of the Capital Trust to appoint a successor Property Trustee within 60 days thereof. (Section 1.1)

Within five Business Days after the occurrence of any Event of Default actually known to the Property Trustee, the Property Trustee shall transmit notice of such Event of Default to the holders of the Capital Trust's preferred securities, the Administrative Trustees and to us, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as the case may be, as Depositor, unless such Event of Default shall have been cured or waived. We, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as the case may be, as Depositor, and the Administrative Trustees are required to file annually with the Property Trustee a certificate as to whether or not they are in compliance with all the conditions and covenants applicable to them under each restated trust agreement. (Sections 8.15 and 8.16)

If an event of default under the corresponding junior subordinated debt securities has occurred and is continuing, the preferred securities shall have a preference over the common securities upon dissolution of the Capital Trust as described above. See Liquidation Distribution Upon Dissolution of the Capital Trust. The existence of an Event of Default under the restated trust agreement does not entitle the holders of preferred securities to accelerate the maturity thereof.

Table of Contents

REMOVAL OF CAPITAL TRUSTEES

Unless an event of default under the corresponding junior subordinated debt securities shall have occurred and be continuing, any Capital Trustee may be removed at any time by the holder of the common securities. If an event of default under the corresponding junior subordinated debt securities has occurred and is continuing, the Property Trustee and the Delaware Trustee may be removed at such time by the holders of a majority in liquidation amount of the outstanding preferred securities. In no event will the holders of the preferred securities have the right to vote to appoint, remove or replace the Administrative Trustees, which voting rights are vested exclusively in the holder of the common securities. No resignation or removal of a Capital Trustee and no appointment of a successor trustee shall be effective until the acceptance of appointment by the successor trustee in accordance with the provisions of the applicable restated trust agreement. (Section 8.10)

CO-TRUSTEES AND SEPARATE PROPERTY TRUSTEE

Unless an Event of Default shall have occurred and be continuing, at any time or times, for the purpose of meeting the legal requirements of the Trust Indenture Act or of any jurisdiction in which any part of the property of the Capital Trust may at the time be located, the holder of the common securities and the Administrative Trustees shall have power to appoint one or more persons either to act as a co-trustee, jointly with the Property Trustee, of all or any part of the property of the Capital Trust, or to act as separate trustee of any such property, in either case with such powers as may be provided in the instrument of appointment, and to vest in such person or persons in such capacity any property, title, right or power deemed necessary or desirable, subject to the provisions of the applicable restated trust agreement. In case an event of default under the corresponding junior subordinated debt securities has occurred and is continuing, the Property Trustee alone shall have power to make such appointment. (Section 8.9)

MERGER OR CONSOLIDATION OF CAPITAL TRUSTEES

Any corporation into which the Property Trustee, the Delaware Trustee or any Administrative Trustee that is not a natural person may be merged or converted or with which it may be consolidated, or any corporation resulting from any merger, conversion or consolidation to which the Capital Trustee shall be a party shall be the successor of the Capital Trustee under each restated trust agreement, provided such corporation shall be otherwise qualified and eligible. (Section 8.12)

MERGERS, CONSOLIDATIONS, AMALGAMATIONS OR REPLACEMENTS OF THE CAPITAL TRUST

The Capital Trust may not merge with or into, convert into, consolidate, amalgamate, or be replaced by, or convey, transfer or lease its properties and assets substantially as an entirety to any corporation or other entity, except as described below or as described in Liquidation Distribution Upon Dissolution of the Capital Trust. The Capital Trust may, at the request of us, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, with the consent of only the Administrative Trustees and without the consent of the holders of the preferred securities, merge with or into, convert into, consolidate, amalgamate, or be replaced by or convey, transfer or lease its properties and assets substantially as an entirety to a trust organized as such under the laws of any State, provided, that

- (1) such successor entity either (a) expressly assumes all of the obligations of the Capital Trust with respect to the preferred securities or (b) substitutes for the preferred securities other securities having substantially the same terms as the preferred securities so long as such successor securities rank the same as the preferred securities rank in priority with respect to distributions and payments upon liquidation, redemption and otherwise;
- (2) we, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, expressly appoints a trustee of such successor entity possessing the same powers and duties as the Property Trustee as the holder of the corresponding junior subordinated debt securities;
- (3) the successor securities are listed or traded, or any successor securities will be listed upon notification of issuance, on any national securities exchange or other organization on which the preferred securities are then listed or traded, if any;

Table of Contents

(4) such merger, conversion, consolidation, amalgamation, replacement, conveyance, transfer or lease does not cause the preferred securities (including any successor securities) to be downgraded by any nationally recognized statistical rating organization;

(5) such merger, conversion, consolidation, amalgamation, replacement, conveyance, transfer or lease does not adversely affect the rights, preferences and privileges of the holders of the preferred securities (including any successor securities) in any material respect;

(6) such successor entity has a purpose substantially identical to that of the Capital Trust;

(7) prior to such merger, conversion, consolidation, amalgamation, replacement, conveyance, transfer or lease, we, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, have received an opinion from independent counsel to the Capital Trust experienced in such matters to the effect that (a) such merger, conversion, consolidation, amalgamation, replacement, conveyance, transfer or lease does not adversely affect the rights, preferences and privileges of the holders of the preferred securities (including any successor securities) in any material respect, and (b) following such merger, conversion, consolidation, amalgamation, replacement, conveyance, transfer or lease, neither the Capital Trust nor any successor entity will be required to register as an investment company under the Investment Company Act; and

(8) RenaissanceRe Finance or any permitted successor or assignee owns all of the common securities of such successor entity, and RenaissanceRe or any permitted successor or assignee guarantees the obligations of such successor entity under the successor securities at least to the extent provided by the preferred securities guarantee.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Capital Trust shall not, except with the consent of holders of 100% in liquidation amount of the preferred securities, consolidate, amalgamate, merge with or into, convert into, or be replaced by or convey, transfer or lease its properties and assets substantially as an entirety to any other entity or permit any other entity to consolidate, amalgamate, merge with or into, convert into, or replace it if such consolidation, amalgamation, merger, replacement, conveyance, transfer or lease would cause the Capital Trust or the successor entity to be classified as other than a grantor trust for United States Federal income tax purposes. (Section 9.5)

VOTING AND PREEMPTIVE RIGHTS

Except as provided below and under Description of the Trust Preferred Securities Guarantee Amendments and Assignment and as otherwise required by law and the applicable restated trust agreement, the holders of the preferred securities will have no voting rights. Holders of the preferred securities have no preemptive or similar rights. (Section 6.1)

AMENDMENT OF RESTATED TRUST AGREEMENT

The restated trust agreement may be amended from time to time by us, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable and the Capital Trustees, without the consent of the holders of the trust securities:

(1) to cure any ambiguity, correct or supplement any provisions in such restated trust agreement that may be inconsistent with any other provision, or to make any other provisions with respect to matters or questions arising under such restated trust agreement, which shall not be inconsistent with the other provisions of such restated trust agreement, or

(2) to modify, eliminate or add to any provisions of such restated trust agreement to such extent as shall be necessary to ensure that the Capital Trust will be classified for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a grantor trust at all times that any trust securities are outstanding or to ensure that the Capital Trust will not be required to register as an investment company under the Investment Company Act;

provided, however, that in the case of clause (1), such action shall not adversely affect in any material respect the interests of any holder of trust securities. Any such amendments of a restated trust agreement shall become effective when notice thereof is given to the holders of trust securities of the Capital Trust.

Table of Contents

The restated trust agreement may be amended by us, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, and the Capital Trustees with the consent of holders representing not less than a majority (based upon liquidation amounts) of the outstanding trust securities, and receipt by the Capital Trustees of an opinion of counsel to the effect that such amendment or the exercise of any power granted to the Capital Trustees in accordance with such amendment will not affect the Capital Trust's status as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes or the Capital Trust's exemption from status as an investment company under the Investment Company Act. However, without the consent of each holder of trust securities, such restated trust agreement may not be amended to:

(1) change the amount or timing of any distribution on the trust securities or otherwise adversely affect the amount of any distribution required to be made in respect of the trust securities as of a specified date; or

(2) restrict the right of a holder of trust securities to institute suit for the enforcement of any such payment on or after such date. (Section 10.2)

So long as any corresponding junior subordinated debt securities are held by the Property Trustee, the Capital Trustees shall not:

(1) direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the Trustee, or executing any trust or power conferred on the Property Trustee with respect to such corresponding junior subordinated debt securities;

(2) waive any past default that is waivable under Section 5.13 of the subordinated indenture (as described in Description of the Debt Securities Modification and Waiver);

(3) exercise any right to rescind or annul a declaration that the principal of all the subordinated debt securities shall be due and payable; or

(4) consent to any amendment, modification or termination of the subordinated indenture or such corresponding junior subordinated debt securities, where such consent shall be required,

without, in each case, obtaining the prior approval of the holders of a majority in aggregate liquidation amount of all outstanding preferred securities.

However, where a consent under the subordinated indenture would require the consent of each holder of corresponding junior subordinated debt securities affected thereby, no such consent shall be given by the Property Trustee without the prior consent of each holder of the corresponding preferred securities. The Capital Trustees shall not revoke any action previously authorized or approved by a vote of the holders of the preferred securities except by subsequent vote of the holders of the preferred securities. The Property Trustee shall notify each holder of preferred securities of any notice of default with respect to the corresponding junior subordinated debt securities. In addition to obtaining the foregoing approvals of the holders of the preferred securities, prior to taking any of the foregoing actions, the Capital Trustees shall obtain an opinion of counsel experienced in such matters to the effect that the Capital Trust will not be classified as a corporation for United States Federal income tax purposes on account of such action. (Section 6.1)

Any required approval or action of holders of preferred securities may be given or taken at a meeting of holders of preferred securities convened for such purpose or pursuant to written consent. The Property Trustee will cause a notice of any meeting at which holders of preferred securities are entitled to vote to be given to each holder of record of preferred securities in the manner set forth in each restated trust agreement. (Sections 6.2, 6.3 and 6.6)

No vote or consent of the holders of preferred securities will be required for the Capital Trust to redeem and cancel its preferred securities in accordance with the applicable restated trust agreement.

Notwithstanding that holders of preferred securities are entitled to vote or consent under any of the circumstances described above, any of the preferred securities that are owned by us, the Capital Trustees or any affiliate of ours (including RenaissanceRe Finance and GUSH) or any Capital Trustees, shall, for purposes of such vote or consent, be treated as if they were not outstanding.

Table of Contents

GLOBAL PREFERRED SECURITIES

The preferred securities of the Capital Trust may be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global preferred securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, the depository identified in the prospectus supplement.

The specific terms of the depository arrangement with respect to the preferred securities of the Capital Trust will be described in the related prospectus supplement. We, RenaissanceRe Finance and GUSH currently anticipate that the following provisions will generally apply to depository arrangements.

Upon the issuance of a global preferred security, and the deposit of such global preferred security with or on behalf of the depository, the depository for such global preferred security or its nominee will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the respective aggregate liquidation amounts of the individual preferred securities represented by such global preferred securities to the accounts of participants. Such accounts shall be designated by the underwriters or agents with respect to such preferred securities or us RenaissanceRe Finance if such preferred securities are offered and sold directly by RenaissanceRe Finance. Ownership of beneficial interests in a global preferred security will be limited to participants or persons that may hold interests through participants. Ownership of beneficial interests in such global preferred security will be shown on, and the transfer of that ownership will be effected only through, records maintained by the depository or its nominee (with respect to interests of participants) and the records of participants (with respect to interests of persons who hold through participants). The laws of some states require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of such securities in definitive form. Such limits and such laws may impair the ability to transfer beneficial interests in a global preferred security.

So long as the depository for a global preferred security, or its nominee, is the registered owner of such global preferred security, such depository or such nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner or holder of the preferred securities represented by such global preferred security for all purposes under the restated trust agreement governing such preferred securities. Except as provided below, owners of beneficial interests in a global preferred security will not be entitled to have any of the individual preferred securities represented by such global preferred security registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of any such preferred securities in definitive form and will not be considered the owners or holders thereof under the restated trust agreement.

Payments of any liquidation amount, premium or distributions in respect of individual preferred securities registered in the name of a depository or its nominee will be made to the depository or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owner of the global preferred security representing such preferred securities. None of us, RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH, the Property Trustee, any paying agent, or the securities registrar for such preferred securities will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests of the global preferred security representing such preferred securities or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to such beneficial ownership interests.

We, RenaissanceRe Finance and GUSH currently expect that the depository or its nominee, upon receipt of any payment in respect of a global preferred security representing the Capital Trust's preferred securities, will credit immediately participants' accounts with payments in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interest in the aggregate liquidation amount of such global preferred security for such preferred securities as shown on the records of such depository or its nominee. We, RenaissanceRe Finance and GUSH also currently expect that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in such global preferred security held through such participants will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in street name and will be the responsibility of such participants.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the restated trust agreement of the Capital Trust will provide that (1) if we, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable,

Table of Contents

advises the Capital Trustees in writing that the depositary is no longer willing or able to act as depositary and we fail to appoint a qualified successor within 90 days, (2) we, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, at our or its option, advises the Capital Trustees in writing that it elects to terminate the book-entry system through the depositary or (3) after the occurrence of an event of default under the corresponding junior subordinated debt securities, owners of preferred securities representing at least a majority of liquidation amount of such preferred securities advise the Property Trustee in writing that the continuation of a book-entry system through the depositary is no longer in their best interests, then the global preferred securities will be exchanged for preferred securities in definitive form in accordance with the instructions of the depositary. It is expected that such instructions may be based upon directions received by the depositary from participants with respect to ownership of beneficial interests in global preferred securities. Individual preferred securities so issued will be issued in authorized denominations.

PAYMENT AND PAYING AGENCY

Payments in respect of the preferred securities shall be made to the depositary, which shall credit the relevant accounts at the depositary on the applicable distribution dates or, if the Capital Trust's preferred securities are not held by the depositary, such payments shall be made by check mailed to the address of the holder entitled thereto as such address shall appear on the register of the Capital Trust. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the paying agent shall initially be the Property Trustee and any copaying agent chosen by the Property Trustee and acceptable to us, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, and the Administrative Trustees. The paying agent shall be permitted to resign as paying agent upon 30 days' written notice to us, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, and the Property Trustee. In the event the Property Trustee shall no longer be the paying agent, the Administrative Trustees shall appoint a successor (which shall be a bank or trust company acceptable to the Administrative Trustees and us) to act as paying agent. (Section 5.9)

REGISTRAR AND TRANSFER AGENT

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the Property Trustee will act as registrar and transfer agent for the preferred securities.

Registration of transfers of preferred securities will be effected without charge by or on behalf of the Capital Trust, but upon payment of any tax or other governmental charges that may be imposed in connection with any transfer or exchange. The Capital Trust will not be required to register or cause to be registered the transfer of their preferred securities after such preferred securities have been called for redemption. (Section 5.4)

INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PROPERTY TRUSTEE

The Property Trustee undertakes to perform only those duties specifically set forth in each restated trust agreement, provided that it must exercise the same degree of care as a prudent person would exercise in the conduct of his or her own affairs. Subject to this provision, the Property Trustee is under no obligation to exercise any of the powers vested in it by the applicable restated trust agreement at the request of any holder of preferred securities unless it is offered reasonable indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities that might be incurred thereby. If in performing its duties under the restated trust agreement, the Property Trustee is required to decide between alternative causes of action, construe ambiguous provisions in the applicable restated trust agreement or is unsure of the application of any provision of the applicable restated trust agreement, and the matter is not one on which holders of preferred securities are entitled under such restated trust agreement to vote, then the Property Trustee shall take such action as is directed by us, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable. If it is not so directed, the Property Trustee shall take such action as it deems advisable and in the best interests of the holders of the trust securities and will have no liability except for its own bad faith, negligence or willful misconduct.

ADMINISTRATIVE TRUSTEES

The Administrative Trustees are authorized and directed to conduct the affairs of and to operate the Capital Trust in such a way that the Capital Trust will not be deemed to be an investment

Table of Contents

company required to be registered under the Investment Company Act or classified as an association taxable as a corporation for United States Federal income tax purposes and so that the corresponding junior subordinated debt securities will be treated as indebtedness of ours, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, for United States Federal income tax purposes. In this connection, we, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, and the Administrative Trustees are authorized to take any action, not inconsistent with applicable law, the certificate of trust of the Capital Trust or each restated trust agreement, that we, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, and the Administrative Trustees determine in their discretion to be necessary or desirable for such purposes, as long as such action does not materially adversely affect the interests of the holders of the related preferred securities.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TRUST PREFERRED SECURITIES GUARANTEE

Concurrently with any issuance by the Capital Trust of its preferred securities, we will execute and deliver a preferred securities guarantee for the benefit of the holders from time to time of such preferred securities. Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas will act as indenture trustee (Guarantee Trustee) under the preferred securities guarantee for the purposes of compliance with the Trust Indenture Act, and the preferred securities guarantee will be qualified as an indenture under the Trust Indenture Act.

The following summary sets forth the material terms and provisions of the preferred securities guarantee. Because the following summary of certain provisions of the preferred securities guarantees is not complete, you should refer to the form of preferred securities guarantee and the Trust Indenture Act for more complete information regarding the provisions of the preferred securities guarantee, including the definitions of some of the terms used below. The form of the preferred securities guarantee has been filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part and is incorporated by reference in this summary. Whenever we refer to particular sections or defined terms of a preferred securities guarantee, such sections or defined terms are incorporated herein by reference. Reference in this summary to preferred securities means the Capital Trust's preferred securities to which a preferred securities guarantee relates. The Guarantee Trustee will hold the preferred securities guarantee for the benefit of the holders of the Capital Trust's preferred securities.

GENERAL

We will irrevocably agree to pay in full on a subordinated basis, to the extent described herein, the Guarantee Payments (as defined below) (without duplication of amounts theretofore paid by or on behalf of the Capital Trust) to the holders of the preferred securities, as and when due, regardless of any defense, right of setoff or counterclaim that the Capital Trust may have or assert other than the defense of payment. The following payments with respect to the preferred securities, to the extent not paid by or on behalf of the Capital Trust (the Guarantee Payments), will be subject to the preferred securities guarantee:

- (1) any accrued and unpaid distributions required to be paid on such preferred securities, to the extent that the Capital Trust has funds on hand available for payment at such time;
- (2) the redemption price, including all accrued and unpaid distributions to the redemption date, with respect to any preferred securities called for redemption, to the extent that the Capital Trust has funds on hand available for payment at such time; and
- (3) upon a voluntary or involuntary dissolution, winding up or liquidation of the Capital Trust (unless the corresponding junior subordinated debt securities are distributed to holders of such preferred securities), the lesser of (a) the Liquidation Distribution, to the extent the Capital Trust has funds available for payment at such time and (b) the amount of assets of the Capital Trust remaining available for distribution to holders of preferred securities.

Our obligation to make a Guarantee Payment may be satisfied by direct payment of the required amounts by us to the holders of the applicable preferred securities or by causing the Capital Trust to pay such amounts to such holders. (Section 5.1)

Table of Contents

Each preferred securities guarantee will be an irrevocable guarantee on a subordinated basis of the Capital Trust's payment obligations under the preferred securities, but will apply only to the extent that the Capital Trust has funds sufficient to make such payments. (Section 5.1, 6.2) Each preferred securities guarantee is, to that extent, a guarantee of payment and not a guarantee of collection. (Section 5.5). As of March 31, 2007, there was an aggregate of \$450.0 million of our Senior Indebtedness outstanding to which the preferred securities guarantees would be subordinated.

If we, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH, as applicable, do not make interest payments on the corresponding junior subordinated debt securities held by the Capital Trust, the Capital Trust will not be able to pay distributions on the preferred securities and will not have funds legally available for payment. Each preferred securities guarantee will rank subordinate and junior in right of payment to all other Indebtedness of ours (including all debt securities), except those ranking equally or subordinate by their terms. See Status of the Preferred Securities Guarantees.

Because we are a holding company, our rights and the rights of our creditors (including the holders of preferred securities who are creditors of ours by virtue of the preferred securities guarantee) and shareholders, to participate in any distribution of assets of any subsidiary upon such subsidiary's liquidation or reorganization or otherwise would be subject to the prior claims of the subsidiary's creditors, except to the extent that we may ourselves be a creditor with recognized claims against the subsidiary. The right of creditors of ours (including the holders of preferred securities who are creditors of ours by virtue of the preferred securities guarantee) to participate in the distribution of stock owned by us in certain of our subsidiaries may also be subject to approval by certain insurance regulatory authorities having jurisdiction over such subsidiaries. Except as otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, the preferred securities guarantees do not limit our ability to incur or issue other secured or unsecured debt, whether under an indenture or otherwise.

Our obligations described herein and in any accompanying prospectus supplement, through the applicable preferred securities guarantee, the applicable restated trust agreement, the subordinated indenture and any supplemental indentures thereto and the expense agreement described below, taken together, constitute a full, irrevocable and unconditional guarantee by us of payments due on the preferred securities. No single document standing alone or operating in conjunction with fewer than all of the other documents constitutes such guarantee. It is only the combined operation of these documents that has the effect of providing a full, irrevocable and unconditional guarantee of the Capital Trust's obligations under the preferred securities. See The Capital Trust, Description of the Trust Preferred Securities, and Description of the Debt Securities.

STATUS OF THE PREFERRED SECURITIES GUARANTEES

Each preferred securities guarantee will constitute an unsecured obligation of ours and will rank subordinate and junior in right of payment to all other Indebtedness of ours, except those ranking equally or subordinate by their terms. (Section 6.2)

Each preferred securities guarantee will rank equally with all other similar preferred securities guarantees issued by us on behalf of holders of preferred securities of any trust, partnership or other entity affiliated with us which is a financing vehicle of ours. (Section 6.3). Each preferred securities guarantee will constitute a guarantee of payment and not of collection. This means that the guaranteed party may institute a legal proceeding directly against us to enforce its rights under the preferred securities guarantee without first instituting a legal proceeding against any other person or entity (Section 5.4). Each preferred securities guarantee will not be discharged except by payment of the Guarantee Payments in full to the extent not paid by the Capital Trust or upon distribution to the holders of the preferred securities of the corresponding junior subordinated debt securities. None of the preferred securities guarantees places a limitation on the amount of additional Indebtedness that may be incurred by us. We expect from time to time to incur additional Indebtedness that will rank senior to the preferred securities guarantees.

Table of Contents

PAYMENT OF ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS

If the preferred securities of a series provide for the payment of additional amounts on account of taxes, fees, assessments or governmental charges as will be described in the related prospectus supplement, we will pay to the holder of the preferred securities of such series the additional amounts as described herein.

We will make all Guarantee Payments pursuant to the preferred securities guarantee without withholding or deduction at source for, or on account of, any present or future taxes, fees, duties, assessments or governmental charges of whatever nature imposed or levied by or on behalf of Bermuda (a taxing jurisdiction) or any political subdivision or taxing authority thereof or therein, unless such taxes, fees, duties, assessments or governmental charges are required to be withheld or deducted by (x) the laws (or any regulations or rulings promulgated thereunder) of a taxing jurisdiction or any political subdivision or taxing authority thereof or therein or (y) an official position regarding the application, administration, interpretation or enforcement of any such laws, regulations or rulings (including, without limitation, a holding by a court of competent jurisdiction or by a taxing authority in a taxing jurisdiction or any political subdivision thereof). If a withholding or deduction at source is required, we will, subject to certain limitations and exceptions described below, pay to the holders of the related preferred securities such additional amounts as may be necessary so that every Guarantee Payment pursuant to the preferred securities guarantee made to such holder, after such withholding or deduction, will not be less than the amount provided for in such preferred securities guarantee to be then due and payable.

We will not be required to pay any additional amounts for or on account of:

- (1) any tax, fee, duty, assessment or governmental charge of whatever nature which would not have been imposed but for the fact that such holder (a) was a resident, domiciliary or national of, or engaged in business or maintained a permanent establishment or was physically present in, the relevant taxing jurisdiction or any political subdivision thereof or otherwise had some connection with the relevant taxing jurisdiction other than by reason of the mere ownership of preferred securities, or receipt of payment under such preferred securities guarantee, (b) presented such preferred security for payment in the relevant taxing jurisdiction or any political subdivision thereof, unless such preferred security could not have been presented for payment elsewhere, or (c) presented such preferred security for payment more than 30 days after the date on which the payment in respect of such preferred security became due and payable or provided for, whichever is later, except to the extent that the holder would have been entitled to such additional amounts if it had presented such preferred security for payment on any day within that 30-day period;
- (2) any estate, inheritance, gift, sale, transfer, personal property or similar tax, assessment or other governmental charge;
- (3) any tax, assessment or other governmental charge that is imposed or withheld by reason of the failure by the holder or the beneficial owner of such preferred security to comply with any reasonable request by us, RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH or the Capital Trust addressed to the holder within 90 days of such request (a) to provide information concerning the nationality, residence or identity of the holder or such beneficial owner or (b) to make any declaration or other similar claim or satisfy any information or reporting requirement, which is required or imposed by statute, treaty, regulation or administrative practice of the relevant taxing jurisdiction or any political subdivision thereof as a precondition to exemption from all or part of such tax, assessment or other governmental charge;
- (4) any withholding or deduction required to be made pursuant to EU Directive no. 2003/48 dated June 3, 2003 (JOUE L 157 published on June 26, 2003) or to any other EU Directive or EU Regulation on the taxation of savings deriving from the conclusions of the European Council Meeting held in Feira on June 19-20, 2000 or of the ECOFIN Council Meetings of November 26-27, 2000, December 13, 2001 and January 21, 2003 or pursuant to any law or regulation implementing or complying with, or introduced in order to conform to, such EU Directives or Regulations;

Table of Contents

(5) any taxes, duties, levies, assessments or governmental charges that are payable otherwise than by withholding from payments in respect of such debt securities; or

(6) any combination of items (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5).

In addition, we will not pay any additional amounts with respect to the preferred securities guarantee to any holder who is a fiduciary or partnership or other than the sole beneficial owner of such preferred security to the extent such payment would be required by the laws of the relevant taxing jurisdiction (or any political subdivision or relevant taxing authority thereof or therein) to be included in the income for tax purposes of a beneficiary or partner or settlor with respect to such fiduciary or a member of such partnership or a beneficial owner who would not have been entitled to such additional amounts had it been the holder of the preferred securities.

AMENDMENTS AND ASSIGNMENT

Except with respect to any changes which do not materially adversely affect the rights of holders of the related preferred securities (in which case no vote will be required), no preferred securities guarantee may be amended without the prior approval of the holders of not less than a majority of the aggregate liquidation amount of such outstanding preferred securities. (Section 8.2). All guarantees and agreements contained in each preferred securities guarantee shall bind our successors, assigns, receivers, trustees and representatives and shall inure to the benefit of the holders of the related preferred securities then outstanding. (Section 8.1)

EVENTS OF DEFAULT

An event of default under the preferred securities guarantee will occur upon the failure of ours to perform any of our payment obligations thereunder. The holders of not less than a majority in aggregate liquidation amount of the related preferred securities have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the Guarantee Trustee in respect of such preferred securities guarantee or to direct the exercise of any trust or power conferred upon the Guarantee Trustee under such preferred securities guarantee. (Section 5.4)

If the Guarantee Trustee fails to enforce a preferred securities guarantee, any holder of the preferred securities may institute a legal proceeding directly against us to enforce its rights under such preferred securities guarantee without first instituting a legal proceeding against the Capital Trust, the Guarantee Trustee or any other person or entity. (Section 5.4)

We, as guarantor, are required to file annually with the Guarantee Trustee a certificate as to whether or not we are in compliance with all the conditions and covenants applicable to us under the preferred securities guarantee. (Section 2.4)

INFORMATION CONCERNING THE GUARANTEE TRUSTEE

The Guarantee Trustee, other than during the occurrence and continuance of a default by us in performance of any preferred securities guarantee, undertakes to perform only such duties as are specifically set forth in each preferred securities guarantee and, after default with respect to any preferred securities guarantee, must exercise the same degree of care and skill as a prudent person would exercise or use in the conduct of his or her own affairs. (Section 3.1). Subject to this provision, the Guarantee Trustee is under no obligation to exercise any of the powers vested in it by any preferred securities guarantee at the request of any holder of any preferred securities unless it is offered reasonable indemnity against the costs, expenses, and liabilities that might be incurred thereby. (Section 3.2)

TERMINATION OF THE PREFERRED SECURITIES GUARANTEES

Each preferred securities guarantee will terminate and be of no further force and effect upon (1) full payment of the redemption price of the related preferred securities, (2) the distribution of the corresponding junior subordinated debt securities to the holders of the related preferred securities or

Table of Contents

(3) upon full payment of the amounts payable upon liquidation of the Capital Trust. Each preferred securities guarantee will continue to be effective or will be reinstated, as the case may be, if at any time any holder of the related preferred securities must restore payment of any sums paid with respect to such preferred securities or such preferred securities guarantee. (Section 7.1)

NEW YORK LAW TO GOVERN

Each preferred securities guarantee will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York applicable to agreements made and performed in that state. (Section 8.5)

THE EXPENSE AGREEMENT

Pursuant to the expense agreement entered into by us under the restated trust agreement, we will irrevocably and unconditionally guarantee to each person or entity to whom the Capital Trust becomes indebted or liable, the full payment of any costs, expenses or liabilities of the Capital Trust, other than obligations of the Capital Trust to pay to the holders of the preferred securities or other similar interests in the Capital Trust of the amounts due such holders pursuant to the terms of the preferred securities or such other similar interests, as the case may be.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SHARE PURCHASE CONTRACTS AND THE SHARE PURCHASE UNITS

We may issue share purchase contracts, obligating holders to purchase from us, and obligating us to sell to the holders, a specified number of our common shares or preference shares at a future date or dates. The price per share may be fixed at the time the share purchase contracts are issued or may be determined by reference to a specific formula set forth in the share purchase contracts and to be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. The share purchase contracts may be issued separately or as a part of share purchase units consisting of a share purchase contract and, as security for the holder's obligations to purchase the shares under the share purchase contracts, either:

- (1) senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities of ours, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH;
- (2) preference shares;
- (3) debt obligations of third parties, including U.S. Treasury securities; or
- (4) preferred securities of the Capital Trust.

The applicable prospectus supplement will specify the securities that will secure the holder's obligations to purchase shares under the applicable share purchase contract. Unless otherwise described in a prospectus supplement, the securities related to the share purchase contracts securing the holders' obligations to purchase our common shares or preference shares will be pledged to a collateral agent, for our benefit, under a pledge agreement. The pledged securities will secure the obligations of holders of share purchase contracts to purchase our common shares or preference shares under the related share purchase contracts. The rights of holders of share purchase contracts to the related pledged securities will be subject to our security interest in those pledged securities. That security interest will be created by the pledge agreement. No holder of share purchase contracts will be permitted to withdraw the pledged securities related to such share purchase contracts from the pledge arrangement except upon the termination or early settlement of the related share purchase contracts. Subject to that security interest and the terms of the purchase contract agreement and the pledge agreement, each holder of a share purchase contract will retain full beneficial ownership of the related pledged securities.

The share purchase contracts may require us to make periodic payments to the holders of the share purchase units or vice versa, and such payments may be unsecured or prefunded on some basis. The share purchase contracts may require holders to secure their obligations in a specified manner and in certain circumstances we may deliver newly issued prepaid share purchase contracts upon release to a holder of any collateral securing such holder's obligations under the original share purchase contract.

Table of Contents

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of any share purchase contracts or share purchase units and, if applicable, prepaid share purchase contracts.

Except as described in a prospectus supplement, the collateral agent will, upon receipt of distributions on the pledged securities, distribute those payments to us or a purchase contract agent, as provided in the pledge agreement. The purchase contract agent will in turn distribute payments it receives as provided in the share purchase contract.

DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

As specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may issue units consisting of one or more purchase contracts, purchase units, warrants, debt securities, preferred shares, common shares, preferred securities or any combination of such securities, including guarantees of any of such securities. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe:

- (1) the terms of the units and of the securities comprising the units, including whether and under what circumstances the securities comprising the units may be traded separately;
- (2) a description of the terms of any unit agreement governing the units; and
- (3) a description of the provisions for the payment, settlement, transfer or exchange of the units.

Table of Contents**CERTAIN TAX CONSIDERATIONS**

The following statements under Taxation of RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd., Renaissance Reinsurance, Top Layer Re, DaVinci and Glencoe Insurance Bermuda and Taxation of Shareholders Bermuda Taxation , to the extent they constitute statements of Bermuda law, are the opinion of Conyers Dill & Pearman, Hamilton, Bermuda. The following statements of U.S. federal tax law under Taxation of RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd., Renaissance Reinsurance, Top Layer Re, DaVinci and Glencoe Insurance United States and Taxation of Shareholders United States Taxation of U.S. Shareholders , to the extent they constitute statements of U.S. federal tax law, are the opinion of Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP, New York, New York. The opinions of these firms do not address, and do not include, opinions as to whether RenaissanceRe or any of its subsidiaries has a permanent establishment in the United States, any factual or accounting matters, determinations or conclusions such as to whether RenaissanceRe or any of its subsidiaries are engaged in a U.S. trade or business, Related Person Insurance Income (RPII) amounts and computations and components thereof (for example, amounts or computations of income or expense items or reserves entering into RPII computations) or facts relating to RenaissanceRe s business or activities, and the business or activities of Renaissance Reinsurance, Top Layer Re, DaVinci, Glencoe Insurance and the other subsidiaries of RenaissanceRe, all of which are matters and information determined and provided by RenaissanceRe. The following discussion is based upon current law and describes the material U.S. federal and Bermuda tax consequences at the date of this prospectus. The tax treatment of a holder of preference shares or common shares, or a person treated as a holder of preference shares or common shares for U.S. federal income, state, local or non-U.S. tax purposes may vary depending on the holder s particular tax situation. Legislative, judicial or administrative changes or interpretations may be forthcoming that could be retroactive and could affect the tax consequences to holders of preference shares or common shares. PROSPECTIVE INVESTORS ARE URGED TO CONSULT THEIR OWN TAX ADVISORS CONCERNING THE FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL AND NON-U.S. TAX CONSEQUENCES TO THEM OF OWNING PREFERENCE SHARES.

TAXATION OF RENAISSANCERE HOLDINGS LTD., RENAISSANCE REINSURANCE, TOP LAYER RE, DAVINCI AND GLENCOE INSURANCE***BERMUDA***

RenaissanceRe, Renaissance Reinsurance, Top Layer Re, DaVinci and Glencoe Insurance have each received from the Minister of Finance of Bermuda a written assurance under the Exempted Undertakings Tax Protection Act 1966 of Bermuda, to the effect that in the event of there being enacted in Bermuda any legislation imposing tax computed on profits or income, or computed on any capital asset, gain or appreciation, or any tax in the nature of estate duty or inheritance tax, then the imposition of any such tax shall not be applicable to RenaissanceRe, Renaissance Reinsurance, Top Layer Re, DaVinci or Glencoe Insurance or to any of their operations or their shares, debentures or other obligations until March 28, 2016. Such companies could be subject to taxes in Bermuda after that date. These assurances are routinely given to Bermuda exempted companies upon application and do not constitute a determination or ruling based on the particular circumstances of an exempted company. These assurances are subject to the proviso that they are not to be construed so as to prevent the application of any tax or duty to such persons as are ordinarily resident in Bermuda or to prevent the application of any tax payable in accordance with the provisions of The Land Tax Act 1967 of Bermuda or otherwise payable in relation to any property leased to Renaissance Reinsurance, Top Layer Re, DaVinci or Glencoe Insurance. RenaissanceRe, Renaissance Reinsurance, Top Layer Re, DaVinci and Glencoe Insurance are required to pay certain annual Bermuda government fees. Additionally, Renaissance Reinsurance, Top Layer Re, DaVinci and Glencoe Insurance are required to pay certain annual insurance license fees as an insurer under the Insurance Act. In addition, all entities employing individuals in Bermuda are required to pay a payroll tax and there are other sundry taxes payable, directly or indirectly, to the Bermuda government. Currently there is no Bermuda tax on dividends that may be paid by Renaissance Reinsurance, Top Layer Re, DaVinci or Glencoe Insurance to RenaissanceRe.

Table of Contents***UNITED STATES***

RenaissanceRe believes that, to date, it, its Bermuda insurance subsidiaries (including Renaissance Reinsurance, Top Layer Re, DaVinci, and Glencoe Insurance) and its Bermuda non-insurance subsidiaries (including Renaissance Underwriting Managers Ltd., RenaissanceRe Ventures Ltd. and Renaissance Investment Management Co.) have operated and, in the future, will continue to operate their respective businesses in a manner that will not cause any of them to be treated as being engaged in a U.S. trade or business. On this basis, RenaissanceRe does not expect, nor does it expect its Bermuda insurance subsidiaries or Bermuda non-insurance subsidiaries to be required to pay U.S. corporate income tax. However, as the question of whether a corporation is engaged in a U.S. trade or business is inherently factual and there are no definitive standards provided by the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, existing or proposed regulations thereunder or judicial precedent, counsel has not rendered a legal opinion on this issue. There can be no assurance that the IRS could not successfully contend that some or all of RenaissanceRe, its Bermuda insurance subsidiaries or Bermuda non-insurance subsidiaries are engaged in such a trade or business.

If the IRS successfully establishes that some or all of RenaissanceRe, its Bermuda insurance subsidiaries or Bermuda non-insurance subsidiaries are engaged in a U.S. trade or business, in the opinion of counsel, the entities treated as engaged in business unless exempted from tax by the income tax treaty between the United States and Bermuda, discussed below, would be subject to U.S. corporate income tax on that portion of its respective net income treated as effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business, as well as the U.S. corporate branch profits tax. The U.S. corporate income tax is currently imposed at the rate of 35% on net corporate profits and the U.S. corporate branch profits tax is imposed at the rate of 30% on a corporation's after-tax profits deemed distributed as a dividend.

Even though RenaissanceRe has taken and intends to continue to take the position that RenaissanceRe, its Bermuda insurance subsidiaries and its Bermuda non-insurance subsidiaries are not engaged in U.S. trades or businesses, RenaissanceRe, its Bermuda insurance subsidiaries and its Bermuda non-insurance subsidiaries have filed and intend to continue to file U.S. federal income tax returns to avoid having all deductions disallowed in the event that any of them were held to be engaged in a U.S. trade or business. In addition, in the opinion of counsel, filing U.S. tax returns will allow the Bermuda insurance subsidiaries to claim benefits under the income tax treaty without penalty.

Even if the IRS were to contend successfully that one or more of the Bermuda insurance subsidiaries was engaged in a U.S. trade or business, in the opinion of counsel, assuming satisfaction of the 50% beneficial ownership and disproportionate distribution tests described below, the United States-Bermuda income tax treaty would preclude the United States from taxing the Bermuda insurance subsidiaries on their net premium income, except to the extent attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by a Bermuda insurance subsidiary in the United States. Although RenaissanceRe believes that none of the Bermuda insurance subsidiaries has a permanent establishment in the United States, RenaissanceRe cannot assure you that the IRS will not successfully contend that one or more of them has such a permanent establishment and therefore is subject to taxation. Further, as the question of whether a Bermuda insurance subsidiary has a permanent establishment is inherently factual, counsel has not rendered a legal opinion on this issue. In addition, in the opinion of counsel, benefits of the income tax treaty are only available to a Bermuda insurance subsidiary if more than 50% of its shares are beneficially owned, directly or indirectly, by individuals who are Bermuda residents or U.S. citizens or residents. Although RenaissanceRe believes that each of the Bermuda insurance subsidiaries meets, and RenaissanceRe will attempt to monitor compliance with, this beneficial ownership test, there can be no assurance that the beneficial ownership test will continue to be satisfied or that RenaissanceRe will be able to establish its satisfaction to the IRS particularly with respect to those Bermuda insurance subsidiaries owned in part by third parties. Furthermore, in the opinion of counsel, income tax treaty benefits will also not be available to a Bermuda insurance subsidiary if the income of such subsidiary is used in substantial part, directly or indirectly, to make disproportionate distributions to, or to meet certain liabilities to, persons who are neither residents of the United States or Bermuda nor U.S. citizens. A

Table of Contents

Bermuda insurance subsidiary could fail this requirement if premiums paid for ceded reinsurance by such subsidiary to persons who are neither residents of the United States or Bermuda nor U.S. citizens exceed 50% of gross premiums received by such subsidiary. RenaissanceRe believes that each Bermuda insurance subsidiary should meet this requirement, but there can be no assurance that this will be so in the future. Finally, it should be noted that although the income tax treaty (assuming the limitations previously discussed do not apply) clearly applies to premium income, it is uncertain whether the income tax treaty applies to other income such as investment income, and due to the legal uncertainty concerning this aspect of the treaty, counsel has not rendered a legal opinion on whether the treaty applies to such other income.

If any of the Bermuda insurance subsidiaries were considered to be engaged in a U.S. trade or business and were held not to be entitled to the benefits of the permanent establishment clause of the income tax treaty or if RenaissanceRe or any of the Bermuda non-insurance subsidiaries were considered to be engaged in a U.S. trade or business, and, thus, subject to U.S. income taxation, RenaissanceRe's results of operations and cash flows could be materially adversely affected.

U.S. Internal Revenue Code section 842 requires that foreign insurance companies carrying on an insurance business within the United States have a certain minimum amount of effectively connected net investment income, determined in accordance with a formula that depends, in part, on the amount of U.S. risk insured or reinsured by the entity carrying on the insurance business. If any of the Bermuda insurance subsidiaries is considered to be engaged in the conduct of an insurance business in the United States and such company (i) is not entitled to the benefits of the income tax treaty in general (because it fails to satisfy one of the limitations on treaty benefits discussed above) or (ii) is entitled to the benefits of the income tax treaty in general, but the income tax treaty is interpreted not to apply to investment income, then section 842 could subject a significant portion of the investment income of such company to U.S. income tax.

The United States also imposes an excise tax on insurance and reinsurance premiums paid to foreign insurers or reinsurers with respect to risks located in the United States. Insurance and reinsurance premiums paid to foreign insurers or reinsurers with respect to risks located outside the United States should not be subject to this excise tax. The rate of tax currently applicable to reinsurance premiums paid to foreign reinsurers such as Renaissance Reinsurance, with respect to risks located in the United States, is 1% of gross premiums. Congress has in the past, however, considered legislation that would increase the excise tax rate on reinsurance premiums paid to foreign reinsurers to 4%. Although no such legislation has to date been enacted, proposals have been considered from time to time, and it is uncertain whether, or in what form, such legislation may ultimately be enacted. The rate of tax currently applicable to insurance premiums paid to foreign insurers such as Glencoe Insurance with respect to risks located in the United States is 4% of gross premiums.

Certain direct and indirect subsidiaries of RenaissanceRe are organized under the laws of the United States and are fully subject to federal, state and local tax. To date, we have not realized taxable income in excess of net operating loss carryforwards in connection with our U.S. operations. We plan to grow our U.S. operations and in the future our U.S. group may incur significant U.S. tax liability.

TAXATION OF SHAREHOLDERS

BERMUDA TAXATION

In the opinion of counsel, currently, there is no Bermuda withholding tax on dividends paid by RenaissanceRe.

UNITED STATES TAXATION OF U.S. SHAREHOLDERS

Classification of Renaissance Reinsurance, Top Layer Re, DaVinci and Glencoe Insurance as non-CFCs. Although Renaissance Reinsurance and Glencoe Insurance were classified as controlled foreign corporations (CFCs) in prior years, RenaissanceRe believes that they no longer meet the requirements for such classification and that RenaissanceRe, Top Layer Re and DaVinci were not

Table of Contents

CFCs in prior years. Further, RenaissanceRe's Amended and Restated Bye-Laws contain certain Excess Share provisions, which are designed to prevent any person (other than certain of its founding institutional shareholders) from becoming a 10% U.S. shareholder (which status could require current income inclusions by U.S. persons, if RenaissanceRe or any of its Bermuda subsidiaries were characterized as CFCs) and, accordingly, reduce the likelihood that any of RenaissanceRe or its Bermuda subsidiaries may be deemed to be a CFC in the future. However, there can be no assurance that such provisions will operate as intended.

Each prospective investor should consult its own tax advisor to determine whether its ownership interest in RenaissanceRe would cause it to become a 10% U.S. shareholder of RenaissanceRe, Renaissance Reinsurance, Top Layer Re, DaVinci and/or Glencoe Insurance or of any subsidiary that may be created (directly or indirectly) by RenaissanceRe and to determine the impact of such a classification on such investor.

RPII Rules. Certain special subpart F provisions of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code will apply to persons who, through their ownership of RenaissanceRe's preference shares or common shares, are indirect shareholders of any of the Bermuda insurance subsidiaries if both (A) 25% or more of the value or voting power of the shares of any such subsidiary is owned or deemed owned (directly or indirectly through foreign entities or constructively) by U.S. persons, as is expected to be the case after this offering; and (B)(i) 20% or more of either the voting power or the value of the shares of any such subsidiary is owned directly or indirectly by persons who are insured or reinsured by any such subsidiary or by persons related to such insured or reinsured persons; and (ii) such subsidiary has RPII, determined on a gross basis, equal to 20% or more of its gross insurance income. RPII is income (investment income and premium income) from the direct or indirect insurance or reinsurance of (i) the risk of any U.S. person who owns shares of any of the Bermuda insurance subsidiaries (directly or indirectly through foreign entities) or (ii) the risk of a person related to such a U.S. person.

A Bermuda insurance subsidiary may be considered to indirectly reinsure the risk of a holder of shares that is a U.S. person, and thus generate RPII, if an unrelated company that insured such risk in the first instance reinsures the risk with such subsidiary.

RenaissanceRe does not expect any of the Bermuda insurance subsidiaries to knowingly enter into reinsurance or insurance arrangements where the ultimate risk insured is that of a holder of shares that is a U.S. person or person related to such a U.S. person. It is possible that Treasury Regulations of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code might be adopted clarifying that the indirect reinsurance described in the preceding paragraph constitutes RPII only if the unrelated insurer is fronting for a reinsurer in which the insured (or a person related to the insured) owns shares. Absent adoption of such Treasury Regulations or other authority, there can be no assurance that the IRS will not require a holder of shares that is a U.S. person or person related to such a U.S. person to demonstrate that a Bermuda insurance subsidiary has not indirectly (albeit unknowingly) reinsured risks of such a shareholder. If the IRS requires a shareholder that is a U.S. person or person related to such a U.S. person to demonstrate that the risks reinsured by a Bermuda insurance subsidiary were not risks of related parties, while RenaissanceRe will cooperate in providing information regarding its shareholders and the insurance and reinsurance arrangements of the Bermuda insurance subsidiaries, RenaissanceRe may not be in a position to identify the names of many of its shareholders or the names of the persons whose risks it indirectly reinsures. Therefore, each prospective investor should consult with his own tax advisor to evaluate the risk that the IRS would take this position and the tax consequences that might arise.

Notwithstanding the foregoing discussion, it currently is anticipated (although not assured) that less than 20% of the gross insurance income of the Bermuda insurance subsidiaries for any taxable year in the near term will constitute RPII. However, there can be no assurance that the IRS will not assert that 20% or more of the income of one or more of the Bermuda insurance subsidiaries constitutes RPII or that a taxpayer will be able to meet its burden of proving otherwise. If 20% or more of the gross insurance income of one or more of the Bermuda insurance subsidiaries for any taxable year constitutes RPII and 20% or more of the voting power or value of the stock of such

Table of Contents

subsidiaries is held, directly or indirectly, by insureds or reinsureds or by persons related thereto, each direct and indirect U.S. holder of RenaissanceRe's preference shares or common shares on the last day of the taxable year will be taxable currently on its allocable share of the RPII of such subsidiaries. In that case, RPII will be taxable to each direct or indirect U.S. holder of RenaissanceRe's preference shares or common shares regardless of whether such holder is a 10% U.S. shareholder and regardless of whether such holder is an insured or related to an insured. For this purpose, all of the RPII of such subsidiaries would be allocated solely to U.S. holders, but not in excess of a holder's ratable share, based on the extent of its interest in RenaissanceRe, of the total income of such subsidiaries and limited by the relevant subsidiary's current year earnings and profits.

Earlier this year, legislation was introduced in the U.S. Senate that would eliminate the exception currently available where 20% of the gross insurance income of the insurer constitutes RPII. If such legislation were enacted in the form proposed, it could be difficult or impossible for RenaissanceRe to establish that it has absolutely no RPII, and shareholders (particularly tax-exempt shareholders) might be required to include some RPII in income.

RPII that is taxed to a U.S. holder will increase such holder's tax basis in the shares to which it is allocable. Dividends distributed by the Bermuda insurance subsidiaries to RenaissanceRe and by RenaissanceRe to U.S. persons will, under such regulations, be deemed to come first out of taxed RPII and to that extent will not constitute income to the holder. This will be the result whether the dividend is distributed in the same year in which the RPII is taxed or a later year. The untaxed dividend will decrease the holder's tax basis in such holder's preference shares or common shares as well.

Computation of RPII. For any year that RenaissanceRe determines that the gross RPII of one or more of the Bermuda insurance subsidiaries is 20% or more of its gross insurance income for the year and 20% or more of the voting power or value of the shares of such subsidiary is held directly or indirectly by insureds or reinsureds or persons related thereto, RenaissanceRe may also seek information from its shareholders as to whether beneficial owners of its shares at the end of the year are U.S. persons, so that RPII may be apportioned among such persons. To the extent RenaissanceRe is unable to determine whether a beneficial owner of shares is a U.S. person, RenaissanceRe may assume that such owner is not a U.S. person for purposes of apportioning RPII, thereby increasing the per share RPII amount for all known direct or indirect U.S. holders of its preference shares or common shares.

Tax-Exempt Shareholders. Tax-exempt entities will be required to treat certain subpart F insurance income, including RPII, that is includible in income by the tax-exempt entity as unrelated business taxable income. Prospective investors that are tax exempt entities are urged to consult their tax advisors as to the potential impact of the unrelated business taxable income provisions of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

Disposition of Preference Shares and Common Shares by U.S. Persons Generally. U.S. persons will, upon the sale or exchange of preference shares or common shares for cash consideration, recognize gain or loss for federal income tax purposes equal to the excess of the amount realized upon such sale or exchange over such person's U.S. federal income tax basis for the shares disposed. Different rules would apply under Section 1248 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code if RenaissanceRe were classified as a CFC.

Section 953(c)(7) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code provides that Section 1248 also will apply to the sale or exchange by a U.S. shareholder of shares in a foreign corporation characterized as a CFC under the RPII rules if the foreign corporation would be taxed as an insurance company if it were a domestic corporation, regardless of whether the U.S. shareholder is a 10% U.S. shareholder or whether the corporation qualifies for either the RPII 20% ownership exception or the RPII 20% gross income exception. Although existing Treasury Department regulations do not address the question, proposed Treasury Regulations issued in April 1991 create some ambiguity as to whether Section 1248 and the associated requirement to file Form 5471 would apply when the foreign corporation (such as RenaissanceRe) has a foreign insurance subsidiary that is a CFC for RPII purposes and that would be taxed as an insurance company if it were a domestic corporation. In the opinion of counsel,

Table of Contents

Section 1248 and the requirement to file Form 5471 will not apply to a less than 10% U.S. shareholder because RenaissanceRe is not directly engaged in the insurance business. There can be no assurance, however, that the IRS will interpret the regulations in this manner or that the Treasury Department will not amend the regulations to provide that Section 1248 and the requirement to file Form 5471 will apply to dispositions of RenaissanceRe's preference shares or common shares.

If the IRS or U.S. Treasury Department were to make Section 1248 and the Form 5471 filing requirement applicable to the sale of RenaissanceRe's preference shares or common shares, RenaissanceRe would notify shareholders that Section 1248 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code and the requirement to file Form 5471 will apply to dispositions of RenaissanceRe's preference shares or common shares. Thereafter, RenaissanceRe will send a notice after the end of each calendar year to all persons who were shareholders during the year notifying them that Section 1248 and the requirement to file Form 5471 apply to dispositions of RenaissanceRe's preference shares or common shares by U.S. shareholders. RenaissanceRe will attach to this notice a copy of Form 5471 completed with all of its information and instructions for completing the shareholder information.

Redemption of Preference Shares or Common Shares. A redemption of preference shares or common shares will be treated under Section 302 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code as a dividend if RenaissanceRe has sufficient earnings and profits, unless the redemption satisfies the test set forth in Section 302(b) enabling the redemption to be treated as a sale or exchange, subject to the discussion herein relating to the potential application of the RPII and passive foreign investment company rules. The redemption will satisfy this test only if it (1) is substantially disproportionate, (2) constitutes a complete termination of the holder's stock interest in RenaissanceRe or (3) is not essentially equivalent to a dividend, each within the meaning of Section 302(b). In determining whether any of these tests are met, shares considered to be owned by the U.S. shareholder by reason of certain constructive ownership rules set forth in the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, as well as shares actually owned, must generally be taken into account. Because the determination as to whether any of the alternative tests of Section 302(b) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code is satisfied with respect to a particular holder of preference shares or common shares will depend on the facts and circumstances as of the time the determination is made, U.S. shareholders are advised to consult their own tax advisors to determine their tax treatment in light of their own particular investment circumstances.

Passive Foreign Investment Companies. Sections 1291 through 1297 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code contain special rules applicable with respect to foreign corporations that are passive foreign investment companies (PFICs). A foreign corporation will be a PFIC if 75% or more of its income constitutes passive income or 50% or more of its assets produce passive income. If RenaissanceRe were to be characterized as a PFIC, U.S. holders of preference shares or common shares could be subject to a penalty tax at the time of their sale of (or receipt of an excess distribution with respect to) its shares. In general, a U.S. holder of preference shares or common shares receives an excess distribution if the amount of the distribution is more than 125% of the average distribution with respect to the preference shares or common shares during the three preceding taxable years (or the taxpayer's holding period if it is less than three years). In general, the penalty tax is equivalent to an interest charge on taxes that are deemed due during the taxpayer's holding period but not paid, computed by assuming that the excess distribution or gain (in the case of a sale) with respect to the preference shares or common shares was received ratably throughout the holding period. The interest charge is equal to the applicable rate imposed on underpayments of U.S. federal income tax for such period.

The U.S. Internal Revenue Code contains an express exception for income derived in the active conduct of an insurance business by a corporation which is predominantly engaged in an insurance business. This exception is intended to ensure that income derived by a bona fide insurance company is not treated as passive income, except to the extent such income is attributable to financial reserves in excess of the reasonable needs of the insurance business. In RenaissanceRe's view, RenaissanceRe and the Bermuda insurance subsidiaries, taken together, are predominantly engaged in an insurance business and do not have financial reserves in excess of the reasonable needs of their respective insurance business. The U.S. Internal Revenue Code contains a look-through rule which states that, for purposes of determining whether a foreign corporation is a PFIC, such foreign corporation shall be

Table of Contents

treated as if it received directly its proportionate share of the income and as if it held its proportionate share of the assets of any other corporation in which it owns at least 25% of the stock. Under the look-through rule, RenaissanceRe would be deemed to own the assets and to have received the income of the Bermuda insurance subsidiaries as well as its other 25% owned direct and indirect subsidiaries directly for purposes of determining whether RenaissanceRe is a PFIC, and, consequently, we believe that RenaissanceRe should not be treated as a PFIC. It is possible, however, that the IRS might challenge our conclusion and a court might sustain such challenge, or that future unanticipated changes in our operations or changes in law or regulations might cause us to be classified as a PFIC.

Other. Dividends paid by RenaissanceRe to U.S. corporate shareholders will not be eligible for the dividends received deduction provided by section 243 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

Qualified Dividend Income received by individuals who are U.S. citizens or residents from domestic corporations or qualified foreign corporations in taxable years beginning on or before December 31, 2010 is subject to tax at long-term capital gain rates (generally 15%). A qualified foreign corporation is a foreign corporation which is either incorporated in a possession of the United States or is eligible for the benefits of a tax treaty that the U.S. Treasury Department considers a comprehensive income tax treaty. The U.S. Treasury Department has determined that the Bermuda Treaty is not a comprehensive income tax treaty.

A foreign corporation not otherwise treated as a qualified foreign corporation will be treated as such with respect to any dividend paid on stock which is readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States. However, the term qualified foreign corporation does not include a corporation treated as a foreign investment company (as defined in Code section 1246(b)), or a passive foreign investment company (described below). Special rules apply to extraordinary dividends, dividends on stock held for less than 60 days, and to dividends received from certain corporations or which are taxed under other Code provisions. No regulations have been issued by the U.S. Treasury Department as of the date of this prospectus. The reduced rate of taxation for qualified dividend income does not apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2010.

In any event, the rate reduction will not apply to dividends received to the extent a holder elects to treat the dividends as investment income which may be offset by investment expense. Furthermore, the rate reduction will apply only to dividends that are paid to a holder with respect to stock meeting certain holding period requirements and where the holder is not obligated to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property.

We believe that dividends paid on common shares will qualify as qualified dividend income, and dividends paid on preference shares will qualify as qualified dividend income if, as is intended, we successfully list the preference shares on the New York Stock Exchange. We can give no assurance that the preference shares will be so listed. Prospective investors are advised to consult their own tax advisors with respect to the application of these rules.

In June 2005, legislation was introduced in the United States Senate which, if enacted in its present form, would preclude our dividends from qualifying for such reduced tax rate prospectively from the date of enactment. This legislation was referred to the Senate Finance Committee, and no further action has been taken with respect to it. In March 2007, similar legislation was introduced in the House of Representatives and was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. If this legislation is enacted, dividends paid on our common and preference shares after the date of enactment would not qualify for the reduced tax rate, even if our common and preference shares are considered to be readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States.

Except as discussed below with respect to backup withholding, dividends paid by RenaissanceRe will not be subject to a U.S. withholding tax.

Persons who are not citizens of or domiciled in the United States will not be subject to U.S. estate tax with respect to preference shares and common shares.

Information reporting to the IRS by paying agents and custodians located in the United States will be required with respect to payments of dividends on the preference shares and common shares

Table of Contents

to U.S. persons. In addition, a holder of preference shares or common shares may be subject to backup withholding with respect to dividends paid to such persons, unless such person comes within certain other exempt categories and, when required, demonstrates this fact, or provides a taxpayer identification number, certifies as to no loss of exemption from backup withholding and otherwise complies with applicable requirements of the backup withholding rules. The backup withholding tax is not an additional tax and may be credited against a holder's regular U.S. federal income tax liability.

Subject to certain exceptions, persons that are not U.S. persons will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on dividend distributions with respect to, and gain realized from the sale or exchange of, preference shares or common shares if such dividends or gains are effectively connected with the conduct of a U.S. trade or business.

POSSIBLE CHANGES IN U.S. TAX LAW; PROPOSED LEGISLATION

The tax laws and interpretations regarding whether a company is engaged in a U.S. trade or business, is a CFC, is a PFIC or has RPII are subject to change. Such changes could be introduced on a retroactive basis. Legislation has been introduced from time to time in the U.S. Congress intended to eliminate certain perceived tax advantages of companies (including insurance companies) that have legal domiciles outside the United States. We cannot assure you that future legislative action, rulemaking activity, or regulatory or enforcement actions will not increase the amount of U.S. tax payable by us or our subsidiaries, or adversely affect the U.S. tax treatment of our shareholders. If this happens, our financial condition and results of operations could be materially adversely affected.

OECD. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which is commonly referred to as the OECD, has published reports and launched a global dialogue among member and non-member countries on measures to limit harmful tax competition. These measures are largely directed at counteracting the effects of tax havens and preferential tax regimes in countries around the world. In the OECD's report dated April 18, 2002 and updated as of June 2004 and November 2005 via a Global Forum, Bermuda was not listed as an uncooperative tax haven jurisdiction because it had previously committed itself to eliminate harmful tax practices and to embrace international tax standards for transparency, exchange of information and the elimination of any aspects of the regimes for financial and other services that attract business with no substantial domestic activity. We are not able to predict what changes will arise from the commitment or whether such changes will subject us to additional taxes.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTIONS BY RENAISSANCERE, RENAISSANCERE FINANCE, GUSH AND THE CAPITAL TRUST

We, RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH and/or the Capital Trust may sell offered securities in any one or more of the following ways from time to time:

- (1) through agents;
- (2) to or through underwriters;
- (3) through dealers; or
- (4) directly to purchasers.

In addition, we, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH may enter into derivative or other hedging transactions with third parties, or sell securities not covered by this prospectus to third parties in privately negotiated transactions. If the applicable prospectus supplement indicates, in connection with such a transaction the third parties may, pursuant to this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, and subject to receiving the prior written consent of the Bermuda Monetary Authority, sell securities covered by this prospectus and applicable prospectus supplement. If so, the third party may use securities borrowed from others to settle such sales and may use securities received from us to close out any related short positions. Subject to receiving the prior written consent of the Bermuda

Table of Contents

Monetary Authority, we may also loan or pledge securities covered by this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement to third parties, who may sell the loaned securities or, in an event of default in the case of a pledge, sell the pledged securities pursuant to this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement.

The prospectus supplement with respect to the offered securities will set forth the terms of the offering of the offered securities, including the name or names of any underwriters, dealers or agents; the purchase price of the offered securities and the proceeds to us, RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH and/or the Capital Trust from such sale; any underwriting discounts and commissions or agency fees and other items constituting underwriters or agents compensation; any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers and any securities exchange on which such offered securities may be listed. Any initial public offering price, discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time.

The distribution of the offered securities may be effected from time to time in one or more transactions at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to such prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices.

Offers to purchase offered securities may be solicited by agents designated by us from time to time. Any such agent involved in the offer or sale of the offered securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered will be named, and any commissions payable by us, RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH and/or the Capital Trust to such agent will be set forth, in the applicable prospectus supplement. Unless otherwise indicated in such prospectus supplement, any such agent will be acting on a reasonable best efforts basis for the period of its appointment. Any such agent may be deemed to be an underwriter, as that term is defined in the Securities Act, of the offered securities so offered and sold.

If offered securities are sold by means of an underwritten offering, we, RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH and/or the Capital Trust will execute an underwriting agreement with an underwriter or underwriters, and the names of the specific managing underwriter or underwriters, as well as any other underwriters, and the terms of the transaction, including commissions, discounts and any other compensation of the underwriters and dealers, if any, will be set forth in the prospectus supplement which will be used by the underwriters to make resales of the offered securities. If underwriters are utilized in the sale of the offered securities, the offered securities will be acquired by the underwriters for their own account and may be resold from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at fixed public offering prices or at varying prices determined by the underwriters at the time of sale.

Each underwriter, dealer and agent participating in the distribution of any offered securities which are issuable in bearer form will agree that it will not offer, sell, resell or deliver, directly or indirectly, offered securities in bearer form in the U.S. or to U.S. persons except as otherwise permitted by Treasury Regulations Section 1.163-5(c)(2)(i)(D).

Offered securities may be offered to the public either through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters or directly by the managing underwriters. If any underwriter or underwriters are utilized in the sale of the offered securities, unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, the underwriting agreement will provide that the obligations of the underwriters are subject to certain conditions precedent and that the underwriters with respect to a sale of offered securities will be obligated to purchase all such offered securities of a series if any are purchased.

We, RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH and/or the Capital Trust may grant to the underwriters options to purchase additional offered securities, to cover over-allotments, if any, at the public offering price (with additional underwriting discounts or commissions), as may be set forth in the prospectus supplement relating thereto. If we, RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH and/or the Capital Trust grants any over-allotment option, the terms of such over-allotment option will be set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to such offered securities.

If a dealer is utilized in the sales of offered securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered, we, RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH and/or the Capital Trust will sell such offered securities

Table of Contents

to the dealer as principal. The dealer may then resell such offered securities to the public at varying prices to be determined by such dealer at the time of resale. Any such dealer may be deemed to be an underwriter, as such term is defined in the Securities Act, of the offered securities so offered and sold. The name of the dealer and the terms of the transaction will be set forth in the related prospectus supplement.

Offers to purchase offered securities may be solicited directly by us, RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH and/or the Capital Trust and the sale thereof may be made by us, RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH and/or the Capital Trust directly to institutional investors or others, who may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act with respect to any resale thereof. The terms of any such sales will be described in the related prospectus supplement.

Offered securities may also be offered and sold, if so indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, in connection with a remarketing upon their purchase, in accordance with a redemption or repayment pursuant to their terms, or otherwise, by one or more firms (remarketing firms), acting as principals for their own accounts or as agents for us, RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH and/or the Capital Trust. Any remarketing firm will be identified and the terms of its agreements, if any, with us, RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH and/or the Capital Trust and its compensation will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Remarketing firms may be deemed to be underwriters, as such term is defined in the Securities Act, in connection with the offered securities remarketed thereby.

We, RenaissanceRe Finance or GUSH may sell equity securities in an offering at the market as defined in Rule 415 under the Securities Act. A post-effective amendment to this registration statement will be filed to identify the underwriter(s) at the time of the take-down for at the market offerings.

Underwriters and purchasers that are deemed underwriters under the Securities Act may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of the securities, including the entry of stabilizing bids or syndicate covering transactions or the imposition of penalty bids. Such purchasers will be subject to the applicable provisions of the Securities Act and Exchange Act and the rules and regulations thereunder, including Rule 10b-5 and Regulation M. Regulation M may restrict the ability of any person engaged in the distribution of the securities to engage in market-making activities with respect to those securities. In addition, the anti-manipulation rules under the Exchange Act may apply to sales of the securities in the market. All of the foregoing may affect the marketability of the securities and the ability of any person to engage in market-making activities with respect to the securities.

Agents, underwriters, dealers, remarketing firms and other third parties described above may be entitled under relevant underwriting and other agreements entered into with us, RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH and/or the Capital Trust to indemnification by us, RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH and/or the Capital Trust against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act that may arise from any untrue statement or alleged untrue statement of a material fact or any omission or alleged omission to state a material fact in this prospectus, any supplement or amendment hereto, or in the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part, or to contribution with respect to payments which the agents, underwriters or dealers may be required to make.

If so indicated in the prospectus supplement, we, RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH and/or the Capital Trust will authorize underwriters or other persons acting as our, RenaissanceRe Finance s, GUSH s and/or the Capital Trust s agents to solicit offers by certain institutions to purchase offered securities from us, RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH and/or the Capital Trust, pursuant to contracts providing for payments and delivery on a future date. Institutions with which such contracts may be made include commercial and savings banks, insurance companies, pension funds, investment companies, educational and charitable institutions and others, but in all cases such institutions must be approved by us, RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH and/or the Capital Trust, as applicable. The obligations of any purchaser under any such contract will be subject to the condition that the purchase of the offered securities shall not at the time of delivery be prohibited under the laws of the jurisdiction to which such purchaser is subject. The underwriters and such other agents will not have any responsibility in respect of the validity or performance of such contracts.

Table of Contents

Disclosure in the prospectus supplement of our, RenaissanceRe Finance's, GUSH's and/or the Capital Trust's use of delayed delivery contracts will include the commission that underwriters and agents soliciting purchases of the securities under delayed contracts will be entitled to receive in addition to the date when we, RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH and/or the Capital Trust, as applicable will demand payment and delivery of the securities under the delayed delivery contracts. These delayed delivery contracts will be subject only to the conditions described in the prospectus supplement.

Each series of offered securities will be a new issue and, other than the full voting common shares, the Series B Preference Shares, the Series C Preference Shares and the Series D Preference Shares, each of which are listed on the New York Stock Exchange, will have no established trading market. We, RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH and/or the Capital Trust may elect to list any series of offered securities on an exchange, and in the case of the common shares, on any additional exchange, but, unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, neither we, RenaissanceRe Finance, GUSH nor the Capital Trust shall be obligated to do so. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of the trading market for any of the offered securities.

Underwriters, dealers, agents and remarketing firms may be customers of, engage in transactions with, or perform services for, us and our subsidiaries in the ordinary course of business.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

GENERAL

We have filed with the Commission a registration statement on Form S-3 under the Securities Act relating to the common shares, preference shares, depositary shares, debt securities, warrants, share purchase contracts, share purchase units, trust preferred securities and preferred securities guarantee described in this prospectus. This prospectus is a part of the registration statement, but the registration statement also contains additional information and exhibits.

We are subject to the informational requirements of the Exchange Act. Accordingly, we file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other reports with the Commission. You can read and copy the registration statement and the reports that we file with the Commission at the Commission's public reference rooms at Judiciary Plaza, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Copies of such material can also be obtained from the Public Reference Section of the Commission, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549, at prescribed rates.

Our filings with the Commission are also available from the Commission's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. Please call the Commission's toll-free telephone number at 1-800-SEC-0330 if you need further information about the operation of the Commission's public reference rooms. Our common shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "RNR" and our reports can also be inspected at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, 17th Floor, New York, New York 10005.

RENAISSANCERE FINANCE

There are no separate financial statements of RenaissanceRe Finance in this prospectus. We do not believe the financial statements would be helpful to the holders of the debt securities of RenaissanceRe Finance because:

We, a reporting company under the Exchange Act, will directly or indirectly own all of the voting securities of RenaissanceRe Finance;

RenaissanceRe Finance has no independent operations or proposals to engage in any activity other than issuing debt securities and applying the proceeds as described in "Use of Proceeds;" and

The obligations of the RenaissanceRe Finance under the senior, subordinated or junior subordinated debt securities issued by it will be fully and unconditionally guaranteed by us. See "Description of the Debt Securities Guarantee."

Table of Contents

RenaissanceRe Finance is not currently subject to the information reporting requirements of the Exchange Act and it is anticipated that it will not become subject to those requirements upon the effectiveness of the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

GUSH

There are no separate financial statements of GUSH in this prospectus. We do not believe the financial statements would be helpful to the holders of the debt securities of GUSH because:

We, a reporting company under the Exchange Act, indirectly own all of the voting securities of GUSH; and

The obligations of GUSH under the senior, subordinated or junior subordinated debt securities issued by it will be fully and unconditionally guaranteed by us. See Description of the Debt Securities Guarantee.

GUSH is not currently subject to the information reporting requirements of the Exchange Act and it is anticipated that it will not become subject to those requirements upon the effectiveness of the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

THE CAPITAL TRUST

There are no separate financial statements of the Capital Trust in this prospectus. We do not believe the financial statements would be helpful to the holders of the preferred securities of the Capital Trust because:

We, a reporting company under the Exchange Act, will directly or indirectly own all of the voting securities of the Capital Trust;

The Capital Trust has no independent operations or proposals to engage in any activity other than issuing securities representing undivided beneficial interests in the assets of the Capital Trust and investing the proceeds in subordinated debt securities issued by RenaissanceRe Finance; and

The obligations of the Capital Trust under the preferred securities will be fully and unconditionally guaranteed by us. See Description of the Trust Preferred Securities Guarantee.

The Capital Trust is not currently subject to the information reporting requirements of the Exchange Act and it is anticipated that it will not become subject to those requirements upon the effectiveness of the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

We file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the Commission. The Commission allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus. Any statement contained in a document which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus is automatically updated and superseded if information contained in this prospectus, or information that we later file with the Commission, modifies or replaces this information. All documents we file pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, after the initial filing of this registration statement and prior to effectiveness of this registration statement and after the date of this prospectus and until we, RenaissanceRe Finance and the Capital Trust sell all the securities shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus. We incorporate by reference the following previously filed documents:

(1) Our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on January 25, 2007, February 7, 2007, February 20, 2007, March 5, 2007, May 3, 2007 and May 30, 2007;

(2) Our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2007;

Table of Contents

- (3) Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006;
- (4) Our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A, filed with the Commission on April 26, 2007;
- (5) The description of our common shares set forth in our registration statement filed under the Exchange Act on Form 8-A on July 24, 1995, including any amendment or report for the purpose of updating such description;
- (6) The description of our 7.30% Series B Preference Shares set forth in our registration statement filed under the Exchange Act on Form 8-A on February 3, 2003, including any amendment or report for the purpose of updating such description;
- (7) The description of our 6.08% Series C Preference Shares set forth in our registration statement filed under the Exchange Act on Form 8-A on March 19, 2004, including any amendment or report for the purpose of updating such description; and
- (8) The description of our 6.60% Series D Preference Shares set forth in our registration statement filed under the Exchange Act on Form 8-A on December 14, 2006, including any amendment or report for the purpose of updating such description.

To receive a free copy of any of the documents incorporated by reference in this Prospectus (other than exhibits) call or write us at the following address: RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd., Attn: Corporate Secretary, P.O. Box 2527, Hamilton, HMGX, Bermuda, (441) 295-4513.

LEGAL OPINIONS

Certain legal matters with respect to the United States of America, New York and Delaware law with respect to the validity of the offered securities will be passed upon for us by Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP, New York, New York. Certain legal matters with respect to Bermuda law will be passed upon for us by Conyers Dill & Pearman, Hamilton, Bermuda. The description of U.S. tax laws will be passed upon by Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP. The description of Bermuda tax laws will be passed upon by Conyers Dill & Pearman. Additional legal matters may be passed on for any underwriters, dealers or agents by counsel which will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement.

EXPERTS

Ernst & Young, independent registered public accounting firm, has audited our consolidated financial statements and schedules included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006 and management's assessment of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2006, as set forth in their reports, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus. Our financial statements and schedules and management's assessment are incorporated by reference in reliance on Ernst & Young's reports, given on their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

ENFORCEMENT OF CIVIL LIABILITIES UNDER UNITED STATES FEDERAL SECURITIES LAWS

We are a Bermuda company. In addition, certain of our directors and officers as well as certain of the experts named in this prospectus, reside outside the United States, and all or a substantial portion of our assets and their assets are located outside the United States. Therefore, it may be difficult for investors to effect service of process within the United States upon those persons or to recover against us or those persons on judgments of courts in the United States, including judgments based on civil liabilities provisions of the U.S. federal securities laws.

We have been advised by Conyers Dill & Pearman, our Bermuda counsel, that the United States and Bermuda do not currently have a treaty providing for reciprocal recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters. We also have been advised by Conyers Dill & Pearman

Table of Contents

that there is doubt as to whether the courts of Bermuda would enforce (1) judgments of United States courts based on the civil liability provisions of the United States federal securities laws obtained in actions against us or our directors and officers, and (2) original actions brought in Bermuda against us or our officers and directors based solely upon the United States federal securities laws. A Bermuda court may, however, impose civil liability on us or our directors or officers in a suit brought in the Supreme Court of Bermuda provided that the facts alleged constitute or give rise to a cause of action under Bermuda law. Certain remedies available under the laws of U.S. jurisdictions, including certain remedies under the U.S. federal securities laws, would not be allowed in Bermuda courts to the extent that they are contrary to public policy.

YOU SHOULD RELY ONLY ON THE INFORMATION CONTAINED OR INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE IN THIS PROSPECTUS OR ANY SUPPLEMENT. NONE OF WE, RENAISSANCERE FINANCE, GUSH OR THE CAPITAL TRUST HAS AUTHORIZED ANYONE ELSE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH DIFFERENT INFORMATION. WE, RENAISSANCERE FINANCE, GUSH AND THE CAPITAL TRUST ARE OFFERING THESE SECURITIES ONLY IN STATES WHERE THE OFFER IS PERMITTED. YOU SHOULD NOT ASSUME THAT THE INFORMATION IN THIS PROSPECTUS OR ANY SUPPLEMENT IS ACCURATE AS OF ANY DATE OTHER THAN THE DATE ON THE FRONT OF THOSE DOCUMENTS. OUR BUSINESS, FINANCIAL CONDITION, RESULTS OF OPERATIONS AND PROSPECTS MAY HAVE CHANGED SINCE THAT DATE.

Table of Contents

\$250,000,000

RenRe North America Holdings Inc.

5.750% Senior Notes Due 2020

Fully and Unconditionally Guaranteed by

RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd.

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

March 12, 2010

Joint Book-Runners

BofA Merrill Lynch

Citi

Joint Lead Manager

Wells Fargo Securities

Co-Managers

Barclays Capital

HSBC

