

Solar Capital Ltd.
Form N-2
March 28, 2014
Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 28, 2014

Securities Act File No. 333-

U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM N-2

REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933 x

(Check appropriate box or boxes)

Post-Effective Amendment No. ..
Pre-Effective Amendment No. ..

SOLAR CAPITAL LTD.

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in charter)

500 Park Avenue

New York, NY 10022

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

Registrant's telephone number, including Area Code: (212) 993-1670

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

Michael S. Gross

Chief Executive Officer

Solar Capital Ltd.

500 Park Avenue

New York, NY 10022

(Name and address of agent for service)

COPIES TO:

Steven B. Boehm

John J. Mahon

Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP

700 Sixth Street, NW, Suite 700

Washington, DC 20001

(202) 383-0100

Approximate date of proposed public offering: From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

If any securities being registered on this form will be offered on a delayed or continuous basis in reliance on Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered in connection with a dividend reinvestment plan, check the following box.

It is proposed that this filing will become effective (check appropriate box):

when declared effective pursuant to Section 8(c).

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

Title of Securities Being Registered	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(1)	Amount of Registration Fee(1)
Common Stock, \$0.01 par value per share(2)(3)		
Preferred Stock, \$0.01 par value per share(2)		
Warrants(4)		
Debt Securities(5)		
Total(6)	\$1,000,000,000(6)	\$128,800(7)

- (1) Estimated pursuant to Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act of 1933 solely for the purpose of determining the registration fee. The proposed maximum offering price per security will be determined, from time to time, by the Registrant in connection with the sale by the Registrant of the securities registered under this Registration Statement.
- (2) Subject to Note 6 below, there is being registered hereunder an indeterminate number of shares of common stock or preferred stock as may be sold, from time to time.
- (3) Includes such indeterminate number of shares of common stock as may, from time to time, be issued upon conversion or exchange of other securities registered hereunder, to the extent any such securities are, by their terms, convertible or exchangeable for common stock.
- (4) Subject to Note 6 below, there is being registered hereunder an indeterminate number of warrants as may be sold, from time to time.
- (5) Subject to Note 6 below, there is being registered hereunder an indeterminate number of debt securities as may be sold, from time to time. If any debt securities are issued at an original issue discount, then the offering price shall be in such greater principal amount as shall result in an aggregate price to investors not to exceed \$1,000,000,000.
- (6) In no event will the aggregate offering price of all securities issued from time to time pursuant to this Registration Statement exceed \$1,000,000,000.
- (7) Prior to the filing of this registration statement, \$702,401,285.60 aggregate principal amount of securities remained registered and unsold pursuant to a registration statement on Form N-2 (File No. 333-172968), which was initially filed by the Registrant on March 21, 2011. Pursuant to Rule 457(p), \$81,548.79 of the total filing fee of \$128,800 required in connection with the registration of \$1,000,000,000 aggregate principal amount of securities under this registration statement is being offset against the \$81,548.79 filing fee associated with the unsold securities registered under the registration statement on Form N-2 (File No. 333-172968), and an additional \$47,251.21 is being paid in connection herewith.

The Registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until the Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Securities and Exchange Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

Table of Contents

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

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED _____, 2014

PROSPECTUS

\$1,000,000,000

Solar Capital Ltd.

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Debt Securities

Warrants

We are an externally managed finance company. Our investment objective is to generate both current income and capital appreciation through debt and equity investments. We invest primarily in leveraged companies, including middle-market companies, in the form of senior secured loans, mezzanine loans and equity securities. Securities rated below investment grade, including the investments we target, are often referred to as leveraged loans, high yield or junk securities, and may be considered high risk compared to debt instruments that are rated investment grade.

We were formed in February 2007 as Solar Capital LLC, a Maryland limited liability company, and commenced operations in March 2007. On February 9, 2010, Solar Capital LLC was merged with and into Solar Capital Ltd., an externally managed, non-diversified, closed-end management investment company that has elected to be treated as a business development company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, or the 1940 Act. We are managed by Solar Capital Partners, LLC. Solar Capital Management, LLC provides the administrative services

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

necessary for us to operate.

We may offer, from time to time, in one or more offerings or series, up to \$1,000,000,000 of our common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, or warrants, which we refer to, collectively, as the securities. The preferred stock and warrants offered hereby may be convertible or exchangeable into shares of our common stock. The securities may be offered at prices and on terms to be described in one or more supplements to this prospectus.

In the event we offer common stock, the offering price per share of our common stock less any underwriting commissions or discounts will generally not be less than the net asset value per share of our common stock at the time we make the offering. However, we may issue shares of our common stock pursuant to this prospectus at a price per share that is less than our net asset value per share (a) with the prior approval of the majority of our common stockholders or (b) under such other circumstances as the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) may permit.

The securities may be offered directly to one or more purchasers, or through agents designated from time to time by us, or to or through underwriters or dealers. The prospectus supplement relating to an offering will identify any agents or underwriters involved in the sale of the securities, and will disclose any applicable purchase price, fee, commission or discount arrangement between us and our agents or underwriters or among our underwriters or the basis upon which such amount may be calculated. See Plan of Distribution. We may not sell any of the securities through agents, underwriters or dealers without delivery of this prospectus and a prospectus supplement describing the method and terms of the offering of such securities.

Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol SLRC. On March 25, 2014, the last reported sales price on the NASDAQ Global Select Market for our common stock was \$22.11 per share.

This prospectus, and the accompanying prospectus supplement, contains important information about us that a prospective investor should know before investing in our common stock. Please read this prospectus, and the accompanying prospectus supplement, before investing, and keep it for future reference. We are required to file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information about us with the Securities and Exchange Commission. This information is available free of charge by contacting us by mail at 500 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022, by telephone at (212) 993-1670 or on our website at <http://www.solarcapltd.com>. The Securities and Exchange Commission also maintains a website at <http://www.sec.gov> that contains such information. Information contained on our website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus, and you should not consider that information to be part of this prospectus or the accompanying prospectus supplement.

An investment in our common stock is very risky and highly speculative. Shares of closed-end investment companies, including business development companies, frequently trade at a discount to their net asset value. In addition, the companies in which we invest are subject to special risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page 17 to read about factors you should consider, including the risk of leverage, before investing in our common stock.

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 shares of common stock unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

, 2014

Table of Contents

You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement. We have not authorized any dealer, salesman or other person to give any information or to make any representation other than those contained in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement to this prospectus. You must not rely upon any information or representation not contained in this prospectus or any such supplements as if we had authorized it. This prospectus and any such supplements do not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of any offer to buy any security other than the registered securities to which they relate, nor do they constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any securities in any jurisdiction to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such an offer or solicitation in such jurisdiction. The information contained in this prospectus and any such supplements is accurate as of the dates on their covers. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since then.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>Summary</u>	1
<u>Fees and Expenses</u>	11
<u>Selected Financial and Other Data</u>	14
<u>Risk Factors</u>	17
<u>Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	44
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	45
<u>Price Range of Common Stock and Distributions</u>	46
<u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	49
<u>Senior Securities</u>	63
<u>Business</u>	64
<u>Portfolio Companies</u>	80
<u>Management</u>	83
<u>Portfolio Management</u>	92
<u>Investment Advisory and Management Agreement</u>	93
<u>Administration Agreement</u>	99
<u>License Agreement</u>	99
<u>Certain Relationships and Transactions</u>	100
<u>Control Persons and Principal Stockholders</u>	101
<u>Regulation as a Business Development Company</u>	102
<u>Determination of Net Asset Value</u>	106
<u>Dividend Reinvestment Plan</u>	108
<u>Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations</u>	110
<u>Sales of Common Stock Below Net Asset Value</u>	117
<u>Issuance of Warrants or Securities to Subscribe for or Convertible into Shares of Our Common Stock</u>	123
<u>Description of Our Capital Stock</u>	124
<u>Description of Our Preferred Stock</u>	131
<u>Description of Our Warrants</u>	132
<u>Description of Our Debt Securities</u>	133
<u>Shares Eligible for Future Sale</u>	146
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	147
<u>Custodian, Transfer and Distribution Paying Agent and Registrar</u>	149
<u>Brokerage Allocation and Other Practices</u>	149
<u>Legal Matters</u>	149
<u>Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	149
<u>Available Information</u>	150
<u>Index to Financial Statements</u>	F-1

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, using the shelf registration process. Under the shelf registration process, which constitutes a delayed offering in reliance on Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, we may offer, from time to time, in one or more offerings or series, up to \$1,000,000,000 of our common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, or warrants on the terms to be determined at the time of the offering. The securities may be offered at prices and on terms described in one or more supplements to this prospectus. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities that we may offer. Each time we use this prospectus to offer securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. A prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. Please carefully read this prospectus and any such supplements together with any exhibits and the additional information described under Available Information and in the Summary and Risk Factors sections before you make an investment decision.

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

This summary highlights some of the information in this prospectus. It is not complete and may not contain all of the information that you may want to consider. You should read carefully the more detailed information set forth under Risk Factors and the other information included in this prospectus and the documents to which we have referred.

We were formed in February 2007 as Solar Capital LLC, a Maryland limited liability company, and commenced operations in March 2007 after conducting a private placement of units of membership interest (units). On February 9, 2010, Solar Capital LLC was merged with and into Solar Capital Ltd., a Maryland corporation, which we refer to as the Solar Capital Merger, concurrent with the pricing of our initial public offering, leaving Solar Capital Ltd. as the surviving entity. Except where the context suggests otherwise, the terms we, us, our, the Company and Solar Capital refer to Solar Capital LLC prior to the Solar Capital Merger, and Solar Capital Ltd. after the Solar Capital Merger. In addition, the terms Solar Capital Partners or the investment adviser refer to Solar Capital Partners, LLC, and Solar Capital Management or the administrator refers to Solar Capital Management, LLC.

In this prospectus, we use the term leveraged to refer to companies of any size with non-investment grade debt outstanding or, if not explicitly rated, those which we believe would be rated as non-investment grade based on their leverage levels and other terms. In addition, we use the term middle-market to refer to companies with annual revenues between \$50 million and \$1 billion.

Solar Capital

Solar Capital Ltd., a Maryland corporation formed in November 2007, is a closed-end, externally managed, non-diversified management investment company that has elected to be treated as a business development company (BDC) under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the 1940 Act). In addition, for tax purposes we have elected to be treated as a regulated investment company (RIC) under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code).

On February 9, 2010, we priced our initial public offering, selling 5.68 million shares of our common stock. Concurrent with our initial public offering, Michael S. Gross, our chairman and chief executive officer, and Bruce Spohler, our chief operating officer, collectively purchased an additional 0.6 million shares of our common stock through a private placement transaction exempt from registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act (the Concurrent Private Placement). Solar Capital Ltd. issued an aggregate of approximately 26.65 million shares of common stock and \$125 million in senior unsecured notes (the Senior Unsecured Notes) to the existing Solar Capital LLC unit holders in connection with the Solar Capital Merger. Solar Capital Ltd. had no assets or operations prior to completion of the Solar Capital Merger and as a result, the books and records of Solar Capital LLC have become the books and records of the surviving entity. As of December 17, 2010, the Senior Unsecured Notes have been repaid from proceeds of a private placement transaction that we completed on November 30, 2010 and from borrowings under our credit facility established in December 2010.

We invest primarily in U.S. middle-market companies, where we believe the supply of primary capital is limited and the investment opportunities are most attractive. Our investment objective is to generate both current income and capital appreciation through debt and equity investments. We invest primarily in leveraged middle-market companies in the form of senior secured loans, mezzanine loans and equity securities. From time to time, we may also invest in public companies. Our business model is focused primarily on the direct origination of investments through portfolio companies or their financial sponsors. Our investments generally range between \$20 million and \$100 million each, although we expect that this investment size will vary

Table of Contents

proportionately with the size of our capital base. We are managed by Solar Capital Partners. Solar Capital Management provides the administrative services necessary for us to operate.

In addition, we may invest a portion of our portfolio in other types of investments, which we refer to as opportunistic investments, which are not our primary focus but are intended to enhance our overall returns. These investments may include, but are not limited to, direct investments in public companies that are not thinly traded and securities of leveraged companies located in select countries outside of the United States. The securities that we invest in are typically rated below investment grade. Securities rated below investment grade are often referred to as leveraged loans, high yield or junk securities, and may be considered high risk compared to debt instruments that are rated investment grade. In addition, some of our debt investments will not fully amortize during their lifetime, which could result in a loss or a substantial amount of unpaid principal and interest due upon maturity.

As of December 31, 2013, our investment portfolio totaled \$1.1 billion and our net asset value was \$995.6 million. Our portfolio was comprised of debt and equity investments in 40 portfolio companies with our portfolio of income producing investments having a weighted average annualized yield on a fair value basis of approximately 11.3%.

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013, we originated approximately \$330 million of investments in 19 portfolio companies. Investments sold or prepaid during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013 totaled approximately \$658 million.

Recent Developments

On February 25, 2014, our Board declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.40 per share payable on April 1, 2014 to holders of record as of March 20, 2014.

The Company repurchased an additional 277,919 shares for \$6.1 million between January 1, 2014 and February 21, 2014. \$76.4 million remains available for future program purchases.

About Solar Capital Partners

Solar Capital Partners, our investment adviser, is controlled and led by Michael S. Gross, our chairman and chief executive officer, and Bruce Spohler, our chief operating officer. They are supported by a team of dedicated investment professionals, including senior team members Brian Gerson, Cedric Henley, David Mait and Suhail Shaikh. We refer to Messrs. Gross, Spohler, Gerson, Henley, Mait and Shaikh as Solar Capital Partners senior investment professionals. Solar Capital Partners investment team has extensive experience in the private equity and leveraged lending industries, as well as significant contacts with financial sponsors operating in those industries.

In addition, Solar Capital Partners presently serves as the investment adviser for Solar Senior Capital Ltd., or Solar Senior, a publicly traded BDC with approximately \$375 million of investable capital that invests in the senior debt securities of leveraged middle-market companies similar to those we target for investment. The investment team led by Messrs. Gross and Spohler has invested in approximately \$3.9 billion in

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

more than 140 different portfolio companies for Solar Capital and Solar Senior, which investments involved an aggregate of more than 100 different financial sponsors, through December 31, 2013. Since Solar Capital's inception, these investment professionals have used their relationships in the middle-market financial sponsor and financial intermediary community to generate deal flow. As of March 25, 2014, Mr. Gross and Mr. Spohler beneficially owned, either directly or indirectly, approximately 5.1% and 4.9%, respectively, of our outstanding common stock.

Table of Contents

Mr. Gross has over 25 years of experience in the private equity, distressed debt and mezzanine lending businesses and has been involved in originating, structuring, negotiating, consummating and managing private equity, distressed debt and mezzanine lending transactions. We also rely on the over 25 years of experience of Mr. Spohler, who has served as our chief operating officer and a partner of Solar Capital Partners since its inception. In addition to Messrs. Gross and Spohler, Solar Capital Partners' senior investment professionals include Messrs. Gerson, Henley, Mait and Shaikh, each of whom has extensive experience in originating, evaluating and structuring investments in the types of middle-market companies we currently target.

Solar Capital Partners' senior investment professionals have been active participants in the primary and secondary leveraged credit markets throughout their careers. They have effectively managed portfolios of distressed and mezzanine debt as well as other investment types. The depth of their prior experience and credit market expertise has led them through various stages of the economic cycle as well as several market disruptions.

Market Opportunity

Solar Capital invests primarily in senior secured loans, mezzanine loans and equity securities of middle-market leveraged companies. We believe that the size of this market, coupled with leveraged companies' need for flexible sources of capital at attractive terms and rates, creates an attractive investment environment for us. See Business Market Opportunity.

Middle-market companies have faced increasing difficulty in accessing the capital markets. While many middle-market companies were formerly able to raise funds by issuing high-yield bonds, we believe this approach to financing has become more difficult in recent years as institutional investors have sought to invest in larger, more liquid offerings. In addition, many private finance companies that historically financed their lending and investing activities through securitization transactions have lost that source of funding and reduced lending significantly. Moreover, consolidation and the illiquid nature of investments have resulted in fewer middle-market lenders and market participants.

There is a large pool of uninvested private equity capital likely to seek additional capital to support their investments. We believe there is more than \$500 billion of uninvested private equity capital seeking debt financing to support acquisitions. We expect that middle-market private equity firms will continue to invest the approximately \$185 billion raised since 2000 in middle-market companies and that those private equity firms will seek to support their investments with mezzanine loans from sources such as Solar Capital.

The significant amount of debt maturing through 2018 should provide additional demand for capital. A high volume of financings were completed between the years 2004 and 2007, which are expected to mature over the next few years. We believe that this supply of prospective lending opportunities coupled with a lack of available credit in the middle-market lending space may offer attractive risk-adjusted returns to investors.

Investing in private middle-market debt provides an attractive risk reward profile. In general, terms for illiquid, middle-market subordinated debt have been more attractive than those for larger corporations which are typically more liquid. We believe this is because fewer institutions are able to invest in illiquid asset classes. In 2011, on average, the total debt to earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) ratio for middle-market leveraged buyouts (LBOs) was 4.3x, versus 5.4x for large capitalization LBOs. This reduced leverage provides further cushion for borrowers to meet debt service obligations.

Therefore, we believe that there is an attractive opportunity to invest in senior secured loans, mezzanine loans and equity securities of leveraged companies, and that we are well positioned to serve this market.

Table of Contents

Competitive Advantages and Strategy

We believe that we have the following competitive advantages over other providers of financing to leveraged companies. See Business Competitive Advantages and Strategy.

Management Expertise

As managing partner, Mr. Gross has principal management responsibility for Solar Capital Partners, to which he currently dedicates substantially all of his time. Mr. Gross has over 25 years of experience in leveraged finance, private equity and distressed debt investing. Mr. Spohler, our chief operating officer and a partner of Solar Capital Partners, has over 25 years of experience in evaluating and executing leverage finance transactions. In addition to Messrs. Gross and Spohler, Solar Capital Partners' senior investment team includes Messrs. Gerson, Henley, Mait and Shaikh, each of whom has extensive experience in originating, evaluating and structuring investments in the types of middle-market companies we currently target. Solar Capital Partners' senior investment professionals have an average of over 20 years of experience in the private equity and leveraged lending industries.

Investment Capacity

The proceeds from our initial public offering and the Concurrent Private Placement, the borrowing capacity under the senior secured credit facility led by Citibank, N.A. (the Credit Facility), our \$75 million senior secured notes (the Senior Secured Notes) and \$100 million of 6.75% senior unsecured notes due 2042 (the Unsecured Notes), and the expected repayments of existing investments provide us with a substantial amount of capital available for deployment into new investment opportunities. We believe we are well positioned for the current marketplace.

Solar Capital's Limited Leverage

As of December 31, we had total outstanding borrowings of approximately \$225 million. We believe our relatively low level of leverage provides us with a competitive advantage, allowing us to anticipate providing a consistent dividend to our investors, as proceeds from our investments are available for reinvestment as opposed to being consumed by debt repayment. We may increase our relative level of debt in the future. However, we do not currently anticipate operating with a substantial amount of debt relative to our total assets.

Proprietary Sourcing and Origination

We believe that Solar Capital Partners' senior investment professionals' longstanding relationships with financial sponsors, commercial and investment banks, management teams and other financial intermediaries provide us with a strong pipeline of proprietary origination opportunities. We expect to continue leveraging the relationships Mr. Gross established while sourcing and originating investments at Apollo Investment Corporation (Apollo) as well as the financial sponsor relationships Mr. Spohler developed while he was a co-head of CIBC World Markets' U.S. Leveraged Finance Group.

Since its inception, Solar Capital Partners has sourced investments in more than 140 different portfolio companies for both Solar Capital and Solar Senior, collectively, which investments involved an aggregate of more than 100 different financial sponsors, through December 31, 2013.

Versatile Transaction Structuring and Flexibility of Capital

We believe Solar Capital Partners' senior investment team's broad expertise and ability to draw upon its extensive experience enable us to identify, assess and structure investments successfully across all levels of a company's capital structure and to manage potential risk and return at all stages of the economic cycle. While we

Table of Contents

are subject to significant regulation as a BDC, we are not subject to many of the regulatory limitations that govern traditional lending institutions such as banks. As a result, we believe that we can be more flexible than such lending institutions in selecting and structuring investments, adjusting investment criteria, transaction structures and, in some cases, the types of securities in which we invest.

Emphasis on Achieving Strong Risk-Adjusted Returns

Solar Capital Partners uses a disciplined investment and risk management process that emphasizes a rigorous fundamental research and analysis framework. Solar Capital Partners seeks to build our portfolio on a bottom-up basis, choosing and sizing individual positions based on their relative risk/reward profiles as a function of the associated downside risk, volatility, correlation with the existing portfolio and liquidity. At the same time, Solar Capital Partners takes into consideration a variety of factors in managing our portfolio and imposes portfolio-based risk constraints promoting a more diverse portfolio of investments and limiting issuer and industry concentration. We do not pursue short-term origination targets. We believe this approach enables us to build an attractive investment portfolio that meets our return and value criteria over the long term. We believe it is critical to conduct extensive due diligence on investment targets. In evaluating new investments we, through Solar Capital Partners, conduct a rigorous due diligence process.

Deep Industry Focus with Substantial Information Flow

We concentrate our investing activities in industries characterized by strong cash flow and in which Solar Capital Partners' investment professionals have deep investment experience. As a result of their investment experience, Messrs. Gross and Spohler, together with Solar Capital Partners' other senior investment professionals, have long-term relationships with management consultants and management teams in the industries we target, as well as substantial information concerning those industries.

Longer Investment Horizon

Unlike private equity and venture capital funds, we will not be subject to standard periodic capital return requirements. Such requirements typically stipulate that the capital of these funds, together with any capital gains on such invested funds, can only be invested once and must be returned to investors after a pre-agreed time period. We believe that our flexibility to make investments with a long-term view and without the capital return requirements of traditional private investment vehicles provides us with the opportunity to generate favorable returns on invested capital and enables us to be a better long-term partner for our portfolio companies.

Summary Risk Factors

The value of our assets, as well as the market price of shares of our common stock, will fluctuate. Our investments may be risky, and you may lose all or part of your investment in us. Investing in Solar Capital involves other risks, including the following:

We operate in a highly competitive market for investment opportunities;

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

The lack of liquidity in our investments may adversely affect our business;

We may borrow money, which would magnify the potential for loss on amounts invested and may increase the risk of investing in us;

To the extent we use debt to finance our investments, changes in interest rates will affect our cost of capital and net investment income;

There will be uncertainty as to the value of our portfolio investments;

Table of Contents

Our portfolio may be concentrated in a limited number of portfolio companies and industries, which will subject us to a risk of significant loss if any of these companies performs poorly or defaults on its obligations under any of its debt instruments or if there is a downturn in a particular industry;

Our investments in securities rated below investment grade are speculative in nature and are subject to additional risk factors such as increased possibility of default, illiquidity of the security, and changes in value based on changes in interest rates;

Our quarterly and annual operating results are subject to fluctuation as a result of the nature of our business, and if we fail to achieve our investment objective, the net asset value of our common stock may decline;

We will become subject to corporate-level income tax if we are unable to qualify and maintain our qualification as a Regulated Investment Company under Subchapter M of the Code;

We are dependent upon Solar Capital Partners' key personnel for our future success;

Our shares may trade at a substantial discount from net asset value and may continue to do so over the long term;

The net asset value per share of our common stock may be diluted if we issue or sell of our common stock at prices below the then current net asset value per share of our common stock or securities to subscribe for or convertible into shares of our common stock;

Our common stock price may be volatile and may decrease substantially;

There is a risk that our stockholders may not receive distributions or that our distributions may be reduced or not grow over time;

Sales of substantial amounts of our common stock in the public market may have an adverse effect on the market price of our common stock; and

Regulations governing our operation as a BDC affect our ability to, and the way in which we raise additional capital. As a BDC, the necessity of raising additional capital may expose us to risks, including the typical risks associated with leverage.

See "Risk Factors" beginning on page 17 and the other information included in this prospectus, for additional discussion of factors you should carefully consider before deciding to invest in our securities.

Operating and Regulatory Structure

Immediately prior to the pricing of our initial public offering, Solar Capital LLC was merged with and into Solar Capital Ltd., a Maryland corporation that is an externally managed, non-diversified closed-end management investment company which has elected to be treated as a BDC under the 1940 Act. As a BDC, we are required to meet regulatory tests, including the requirement to invest at least 70% of our total assets in qualifying assets. Qualifying assets generally include, among other things, securities of eligible portfolio companies. Eligible portfolio companies generally include U.S. companies that are not investment companies and that do not have securities listed on a national exchange. See Regulation as a Business Development Company. We may also borrow funds to make investments. In addition, we have elected to be treated for

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

federal income tax purposes, and intend to continue to qualify annually, as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code. See Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations.

Our investment activities are managed by Solar Capital Partners and supervised by our board of directors. Solar Capital Partners is an investment adviser that is registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as

Table of Contents

amended (the Advisers Act). Under our investment advisory and management agreement, which we refer to as the Investment Advisory and Management Agreement, we have agreed to pay Solar Capital Partners an annual base management fee based on our gross assets as well as an incentive fee based on our performance. See Investment Advisory and Management Agreement. We have also entered into an administration agreement, which we refer to as the Administration Agreement, under which we have agreed to reimburse Solar Capital Management for the allocable portion of overhead and other expenses incurred by Solar Capital Management in performing its obligations under the Administration Agreement, including furnishing us with office facilities, equipment and clerical, bookkeeping and record keeping services at such facilities, as well as providing us with other administrative services. See Administration Agreement.

Our Corporate Information

Our offices are located at 500 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10022, and our telephone number is (212) 993-1670.

Table of Contents

OFFERINGS

We may offer, from time to time, in one or more offerings or series, up to \$1,000,000,000 of our common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, or warrants, on terms to be determined at the time of the offering. We will offer our securities at prices and on terms to be set forth in one or more supplements to this prospectus.

At our 2013 Annual Stockholders Meeting, our stockholders approved our ability to sell or otherwise issue shares of our common stock, not exceeding 25% of our then outstanding common stock immediately prior to each such offering, at a price or prices below the then current net asset value per share, in each case subject to the approval of our board of directors and compliance with the conditions set forth in the proxy statement pertaining thereto, during a period beginning on April 30, 2013 and expiring on the earlier of the one-year anniversary of the date of the 2013 Annual Stockholders Meeting and the date of our 2014 Annual Stockholders Meeting, which is expected to be held on May 6, 2014. However, notwithstanding such stockholder approval, since our initial public offering on February 9, 2010, we have not sold any shares of our common stock at a price below our then current net asset value per share. Any offering of our common stock that requires stockholder approval must occur, if at all, within one year after receiving such stockholder approval. However, to the extent we receive the necessary stockholder approval to sell shares of our common stock at a price below the then current net asset value per share, any such issuance of shares of our common stock below net asset value will be dilutive to the net asset value of our common stock. See **Risk Factors** **Risks Relating to an Investment in Our Securities** and **Sale of Common Stock Below Net Asset Value**.

The securities may be offered directly to one or more purchasers, or through agents designated from time to time by us, or to or through underwriters or dealers. The prospectus supplement relating to an offering will identify any agents or underwriters involved in the sale of the securities, and will disclose any applicable purchase price, fee, commission or discount arrangement between us and our agents or underwriters or among our underwriters or the basis upon which such amount may be calculated. See **Plan of Distribution**. We may not sell any of the securities through agents, underwriters or dealers without delivery of this prospectus and a prospectus supplement describing the method and terms of the offering of such securities.

Set forth below is additional information regarding offerings of our common stock:

Use of Proceeds	Unless otherwise specified in a prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of our securities for general corporate purposes, which includes, among other things, (a) investing in portfolio companies in accordance with our investment objective and strategies and market conditions and (b) repaying indebtedness. Each supplement to this prospectus relating to an offering will more fully identify the use of the proceeds from such offering. See Use of Proceeds .
NASDAQ Global Select Market symbol	SLRC
Distributions	To the extent that we have income available, we intend to distribute quarterly dividends to our stockholders. The amount of our dividends, if any, will be determined by our board of directors. Any dividends to our stockholders will be declared out of assets legally available for distribution. The specific tax characteristics of our dividends will be reported to shareholders after the end of each calendar year. We may issue preferred stock from time to time, although we have no immediate intention to do so. If we issue shares of preferred stock, holders of such preferred stock will be entitled to receive cash dividends at an annual rate that will be fixed or will vary for the

Table of Contents

successive dividend periods for each series. In general, the dividend periods for fixed rate preferred stock will be quarterly.

Taxation

We have elected to be treated for federal income tax purposes, and intend to continue to qualify annually, as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code. As a RIC, we generally will not have to pay corporate-level federal income taxes on any ordinary income or capital gains that we distribute to our stockholders as dividends. To obtain and maintain our RIC tax treatment, we must meet specified source-of-income and asset diversification requirements and distribute annually at least 90% of our ordinary income and realized net short-term capital gains in excess of realized net long-term capital losses, if any. See [Plan of Distribution](#) and [Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations](#) in this prospectus.

Leverage

We have historically and will in the future borrow funds to make investments. As a result, we will be exposed to the risks of leverage, which may be considered a speculative investment technique. The use of leverage magnifies the potential for loss on amounts invested and therefore increases the risks associated with investing in our securities. In addition, the costs associated with our borrowings, including any increase in the management fee payable to our investment adviser, Solar Capital Partners, will be borne by our common stockholders.

Investment Advisory Fees

We pay Solar Capital Partners a fee for its services under the Investment Advisory and Management Agreement consisting of two components – a base management fee and an incentive fee. The base management fee is calculated at an annual rate of 2.00% of our gross assets, which includes any borrowings for investment purposes. The incentive fee consists of two parts. The first part is calculated and payable quarterly in arrears and equals 20% of our pre-incentive fee net investment income for the immediately preceding quarter, subject to a preferred return, or hurdle, and a catch up feature. The second part is determined and payable in arrears as of the end of each calendar year (or upon termination of the Investment Advisory and Management Agreement) in an amount equal to 20% of our realized capital gains, if any, on a cumulative basis from inception through the end of each calendar year, computed net of all realized capital losses and unrealized capital depreciation on a cumulative basis, less the aggregate amount of any previously paid capital gain incentive fees. See [Investment Advisory and Management Agreement](#) in this prospectus.

Administration Agreement

We reimburse Solar Capital Management for the allocable portion of overhead and other expenses incurred by Solar Capital Management in performing its obligations under the Administration Agreement, including furnishing us with office facilities, equipment and clerical, bookkeeping and record keeping services at such facilities, as well as providing us with other administrative services. In addition, we

Table of Contents

reimburse Solar Capital Management for the fees and expenses associated with performing compliance functions, and our allocable portion of the compensation of our chief financial officer and any administrative support staff. See Administration Agreement in this prospectus.

Trading

Shares of closed-end investment companies frequently trade at a discount to their net asset value. The risk that our shares may trade at a discount to our net asset value is separate and distinct from the risk that our net asset value per share may decline. We cannot predict whether our shares will trade above, at or below net asset value.

License Agreement

We have entered into a license agreement with Solar Capital Partners, pursuant to which Solar Capital Partners has agreed to grant us a non-exclusive license to use the name Solar Capital. See License Agreement in this prospectus.

Dividend Reinvestment Plan

We have adopted an opt out dividend reinvestment plan. If your shares of common stock are registered in your own name, your distributions will automatically be reinvested under our dividend reinvestment plan in additional whole and fractional shares of common stock, unless you opt out of our dividend reinvestment plan so as to receive cash dividends by delivering a written notice to our plan administrator. If your shares are held in the name of a broker or other nominee, you should contact the broker or nominee for details regarding opting out of our dividend reinvestment plan. Stockholders who receive distributions in the form of stock will be subject to the same federal, state and local tax consequences as stockholders who elect to receive their distributions in cash. See Dividend Reinvestment Plan in this prospectus.

Certain Anti-Takeover Measures

Our charter and bylaws, as well as certain statutory and regulatory requirements, contain certain provisions that may have the effect of discouraging a third party from making an acquisition proposal for us. These anti-takeover provisions may inhibit a change in control in circumstances that could give the holders of our common stock the opportunity to realize a premium over the market price for our common stock. See Description of Our Capital Stock in this prospectus.

Available Information

We are required to file periodic reports, current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. This information is available at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20549 and on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. The public may obtain information on the operation of the SEC's public reference room by calling the SEC at (202) 551-8090. This information is also available free of charge by contacting us at Solar Capital Ltd., 500 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022, by telephone at (212) 993-1670 or on our website at <http://www.solarcapltd.com>.

Table of Contents

FEES AND EXPENSES

The following table is intended to assist you in understanding the costs and expenses that you will bear directly or indirectly. We caution you that some of the percentages indicated in the table below are estimates and may vary. Except where the context suggests otherwise, whenever this prospectus contains a reference to fees or expenses paid by us or Solar Capital, or that we will pay fees or expenses, you will indirectly bear such fees or expenses as an investor in Solar Capital Ltd.

Stockholder transaction expenses:	
Sales load (as a percentage of offering price)	%(1)
Offering expenses (as a percentage of offering price)	%(2)
Dividend reinvestment plan expenses	%(3)
Total stockholder transaction expenses (as a percentage of offering price)	%(2)
Annual expenses (as a percentage of net assets attributable to common stock):	
Base management fee	2.69%(4)
Incentive fees payable under our Investment Advisory and Management Agreement	2.13%(5)
Interest payments on borrowed funds	2.02%(6)
Other expenses (estimated)	1.06%(7)
Total annual expenses	7.90%

Example

The following example demonstrates the projected dollar amount of total cumulative expenses that would be incurred over various periods with respect to a hypothetical investment in our common stock. In calculating the following expense amounts, we have assumed that our annual operating expenses would remain at the levels set forth in the table above and have excluded performance-based incentive fees. See Note 6 below for additional information regarding certain assumptions regarding our level of leverage. In the event that shares to which this prospectus relates are sold to or through underwriters, a corresponding prospectus supplement will restate this example to reflect the applicable sales load.

	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
You would pay the following expenses on a \$1,000 investment, assuming a 5% annual return	\$ 58	\$ 172	\$ 284	\$ 557

- (1) In the event that the shares of common stock to which this prospectus relates are sold to or through underwriters, a corresponding prospectus supplement will disclose the applicable sales load and the Example will be updated accordingly.
- (2) The prospectus supplement corresponding to each offering will disclose the applicable offering expenses and total stockholder transaction expenses.
- (3) The expenses of the dividend reinvestment plan are included in other expenses.
- (4) Our base management fee under the Investment Advisory and Management Agreement is based on our gross assets, which is defined as all the assets of Solar Capital, including those acquired using borrowings for investment purposes, and assumes the base management fee remains consistent with fees incurred for the year ended December 31, 2013. See Investment Advisory and Management Agreement.
- (5) Assumes that annual incentive fees earned by our investment adviser, Solar Capital Partners, remain consistent with the incentive fees earned by Solar Capital Partners for the year ended December 31, 2013. The incentive fee consists of two parts:

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

The first part, which is payable quarterly in arrears, equals 20% of the excess, if any, of our Pre-Incentive Fee Net Investment Income that exceeds a 1.75% quarterly (7.00% annualized) hurdle rate, which we refer to as the Hurdle, subject to a catch-up provision measured at the end of each calendar quarter. The first part of the incentive fee is computed and paid on income that may include interest that is accrued but not yet received in cash. The operation of the first part of the incentive fee for each quarter is as follows:

no incentive fee is payable to our investment adviser in any calendar quarter in which our Pre-Incentive Fee Net Investment Income does not exceed the Hurdle of 1.75%;

Table of Contents

100% of our Pre-Incentive Fee Net Investment Income with respect to that portion of such Pre-Incentive Fee Net Investment Income, if any, that exceeds the Hurdle but is less than 2.1875% in any calendar quarter (8.75% annualized) is payable to our investment adviser. We refer to this portion of our Pre-Incentive Fee Net Investment Income (which exceeds the Hurdle but is less than 2.1875%) as the catch-up. The catch-up is meant to provide our investment adviser with 20% of our Pre-Incentive Fee Net Investment Income, as if a Hurdle did not apply when our Pre-Incentive Fee Net Investment Income exceeds 2.1875% in any calendar quarter; and 20% of the amount of our Pre-Incentive Fee Net Investment Income, if any, that exceeds 2.1875% in any calendar quarter (8.75% annualized) is payable to our investment adviser (once the Hurdle is reached and the catch-up is achieved, 20% of all Pre-Incentive Fee Investment Income thereafter is allocated to our investment adviser).

The second part of the incentive fee equals 20% of our Incentive Fee Capital Gains, if any, which equals our realized capital gains on a cumulative basis from inception through the end of each calendar year, computed net of all realized capital losses and unrealized capital depreciation on a cumulative basis, less the aggregate amount of any previously paid capital gain incentive fees. The second part of the incentive fee is payable, in arrears, at the end of each calendar year (or upon termination of the Investment Advisory and Management Agreement, as of the termination date). For a more detailed discussion of the calculation of this fee, see Investment Advisory and Management Agreement.

- (6) We have historically and will in the future borrow funds from time to time to make investments to the extent we determine that the economic situation is conducive to doing so. The costs associated with our outstanding borrowings are indirectly born by our investors. For purposes of this section, we have computed interest expense using the average balance outstanding for all borrowings during the year ended December 31, 2013. We used the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) rate on December 31, 2013 and the interest rate on the Credit Facility, the Senior Secured Notes and the Unsecured Notes on December 31, 2013. We have also included the estimated amortization of fees incurred in establishing the Credit Facility, the Senior Secured Notes and the Unsecured Notes as of December 31, 2013. Additionally, we included the estimated cost of commitment fees for unused balances on the Credit Facility. As of December 31, 2013, we had \$50 million outstanding under the Credit Facility, and we had \$75 million and \$100 million outstanding under the Senior Secured Notes and the Unsecured Notes, respectively. We may also issue preferred stock, subject to our compliance with applicable requirements under the 1940 Act.
- (7) Other expenses are based on the amounts incurred for the year ended December 31, 2013 and include our overhead expenses, including payments under our Administration Agreement based on our allocable portion of overhead and other expenses incurred by Solar Capital Management in performing its obligations under the Administration Agreement. See Administration Agreement.

The example and the expenses in the tables above should not be considered a representation of our future expenses, and actual expenses may be greater or less than those shown. While the example assumes, as required by the SEC, a 5% annual return, our performance will vary and may result in a return greater or less than 5%. The incentive fee under the Investment Advisory and Management Agreement, which, assuming a 5% annual return, would either not be payable or would have an insignificant impact on the expense amounts shown above, is not included in the example. This illustration assumes that we will not realize any capital gains (computed net of all realized capital losses and unrealized capital depreciation) in any of the indicated time periods. If we achieve sufficient returns on our investments, including through the realization of capital gains, to trigger an incentive fee of a material amount, our expenses and returns to our investors would be higher. For example, if we assumed that we received our 5% annual return completely in the form of net realized capital gains on our investments, computed net of all cumulative unrealized depreciation on our investments, the projected dollar amount of total cumulative expenses set forth in the above illustration would be as follows:

	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
You would pay the following expenses on a \$1,000 investment, assuming a 5% annual return	\$ 68	\$ 199	\$ 327	\$ 625

Table of Contents

In addition, the example assumes no sales load. Also, while the example assumes reinvestment of all dividends at net asset value, participants in our dividend reinvestment plan will receive a number of shares of our common stock, determined by dividing the total dollar amount of the dividend payable to a participant by the market price per share of our common stock at the close of trading on the dividend payment date, which may be at, above or below net asset value unless the company makes open market purchases and the shares received will be determined based on the average price paid by our agent, plus commissions. See [Dividend Reinvestment Plan](#) for additional information regarding our dividend reinvestment plan.

Table of Contents**SELECTED FINANCIAL AND OTHER DATA**

The selected financial and other data below should be read in conjunction with our Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto. Financial information is presented for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, and 2009. Financial information for the periods ending December 31, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, and 2009 has been derived from our consolidated financial statements that were audited by KPMG LLP (KPMG), an independent registered public accounting firm. See Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and Senior Securities below for more information.

(\$ in thousands, except per

	Year ended December 31, 2013	Year ended December 31, 2012	Year ended December 31, 2011	Year ended December 31, 2010	Year ended December 31, 2009
share data)					
Income statement data:					
Total investment income	\$ 163,593	\$ 153,253	\$ 138,900	\$ 124,641	\$ 109,670
Total expenses	\$ 78,658	\$ 71,326	\$ 56,996	\$ 55,429	\$ 42,408
Net investment income	\$ 84,935	\$ 81,927	\$ 81,904	\$ 69,212	\$ 67,262
Net realized loss	\$ (44,425)	\$ (32,537)	\$ (2,393)	\$ (38,968)	\$ (264,898)
Net change in unrealized gain (loss).	\$ 34,800	\$ 66,371	\$ (18,196)	\$ 111,641	\$ 284,572
Net increase in net assets resulting from operations	\$ 75,310	\$ 115,761	\$ 61,315	\$ 141,885	\$ 86,936
Per share data:					
Net investment income(3)	\$ 1.91	\$ 2.20	\$ 2.25	\$ 2.08	\$ 2.05
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)(3)	\$ (0.22)	\$ 0.91	\$ (0.57)	\$ 2.19	\$ 0.60
Dividends and distributions declared	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.40	\$ 2.40	\$ 2.14	\$ 7.36
	As of December 31, 2013	As of December 31, 2012	As of December 31, 2011	As of December 31, 2010	As of December 31, 2009
Balance sheet data:					
Total investment portfolio	\$ 1,088,399	\$ 1,395,522	\$ 1,045,043	\$ 976,221	\$ 863,140
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 586,979	\$ 15,039	\$ 11,787	\$ 288,732	\$ 5,675
Total assets	\$ 1,708,442	\$ 1,430,403	\$ 1,079,431	\$ 1,291,791	\$ 885,421
Debt	\$ 225,000	\$ 489,452	\$ 236,355	\$ 435,000	\$ 88,114
Net assets	\$ 995,637	\$ 878,273	\$ 805,941	\$ 826,994	\$ 697,903
Per share data:					
Net asset value per share	\$ 22.50	\$ 22.70	\$ 22.02	\$ 22.73	\$ 21.24
Other data (unaudited):					
Weighted average annualized yield on income producing investments:					
On fair value(1)	11.3%	14.2%	14.2%	14.3%	14.8%
On cost(2)	12.2%	14.2%	13.2%	13.8%	13.7%
Number of portfolio companies at period end	40	40	40	36	36

- (1) Throughout this document, the weighted average yield on income producing investments is computed as the (a) annual stated interest on accruing loans and debt securities plus the annual amortization of loan origination fees, original issue discount, and market discount on accruing loans and debt securities, plus the effective interest yield on preferred shares divided by (b) total income producing investments at fair value. The weighted average yield is computed as of the balance sheet date and excludes assets on non-accrual status or on a cost recovery basis as of such date.
- (2) For this calculation, the weighted average yield on income producing investments is computed as the (a) annual stated interest on accruing loans and debt securities plus the annual amortization of loan origination fees, original issue discount, and market discount on accruing loans and debt securities, plus the effective interest yield on preferred shares divided by (b) total income producing investments at cost. The weighted average yield is computed as of the balance sheet date and excludes assets on non-accrual status or on a cost recovery basis as of such date.

Table of Contents

- (3) The number of shares used to calculate weighted average shares for use in computations on a per share basis have been decreased retroactively by a factor of approximately 0.4022 for all periods prior to February 9, 2010. This factor represents the effective impact of the reduction in shares resulting from the Solar Capital Merger. The per-share calculations are based on weighted average shares of 44,571,118, 37,231,341, 36,470,384, 33,258,402 and 32,860,454 for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

Selected Quarterly Financial Data (Unaudited)**(in thousands, except per share data)**

	2013			
	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1
Total investment income	\$ 35,364	\$ 42,986	\$ 39,145	\$ 46,097
Net investment income	\$ 18,532	\$ 21,628	\$ 19,256	\$ 25,519
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	\$ 10,415	\$ (11,058)	\$ (19,269)	\$ 10,287
Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations	\$ 28,947	\$ 10,570	\$ (13)	\$ 35,806
Earnings per share(1)	\$ 0.65	\$ 0.24	\$ (0.00)	\$ 0.81
Net asset value per share at the end of the quarter(2)	\$ 22.50	\$ 22.25	\$ 22.40	\$ 23.00
	2012			
	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1
Total investment income	\$ 41,465	\$ 40,646	\$ 34,833	\$ 36,309
Net investment income	\$ 24,201	\$ 22,258	\$ 14,369	\$ 21,099
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	\$ (903)	\$ 7,985	\$ 1,693	\$ 25,059
Net increase in net assets resulting from operations	\$ 23,298	\$ 30,243	\$ 16,062	\$ 46,158
Earnings per share(3)	\$ 0.60	\$ 0.82	\$ 0.44	\$ 1.26
Net asset value per share at the end of the quarter(4)	\$ 22.70	\$ 22.70	\$ 22.51	\$ 22.68
	2011			
	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1
Total investment income	\$ 35,994	\$ 35,329	\$ 35,283	\$ 32,294
Net investment income	\$ 20,675	\$ 20,711	\$ 21,368	\$ 19,150
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	\$ 31,182	\$ (72,655)	\$ (8,984)	\$ 29,868
Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations	\$ 51,857	\$ (51,994)	\$ 12,384	\$ 49,018
Earnings per share(5)	\$ 1.42	\$ (1.42)	\$ 0.34	\$ 1.35
Net asset value per share at the end of the quarter(6)	\$ 22.02	\$ 21.20	\$ 23.22	\$ 23.48
	2010			
	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1
Total investment income	\$ 31,644	\$ 29,403	\$ 28,284	\$ 35,310
Net investment income	\$ 17,384	\$ 15,551	\$ 15,166	\$ 21,111
Net realized and unrealized gain	\$ 24,974	\$ 5,458	\$ 1,348	\$ 40,893
Net increase in net assets resulting from operations	\$ 42,358	\$ 21,009	\$ 16,514	\$ 62,004
Earnings per share(7)	\$ 1.24	\$ 0.63	\$ 0.50	\$ 1.90
Net asset value per share at the end of the quarter(8)	\$ 22.73	\$ 22.09	\$ 22.07	\$ 22.18

- (1) Based on 44,278,146, 45,006,135, 44,741,537, and 44,257,013 weighted average shares of Solar Capital Ltd. outstanding during each of the first, second, third, and fourth quarters of 2013, respectively.
- (2) Based on 44,973,532, 45,006,497, 44,323,582, and 44,244,195 shares of Solar Capital Ltd. outstanding as of the end of each of the first, second, third, and fourth quarters of 2013, respectively.
- (3) Based on 36,608,038, 36,639,037, 36,948,921 and 38,693,768 weighted average shares of Solar Capital Ltd. outstanding during each of the first, second, third and fourth quarters of 2012, respectively.
- (4) Based on 36,608,038, 36,640,094, 38,667,196 and 38,694,060 shares of Solar Capital Ltd. outstanding as of the end of each of the first, second, third and fourth quarters of 2012, respectively.
- (5) Based on 36,552,979, 36,498,451, 36,444,775 and 36,383,158 weighted average shares of Solar Capital Ltd. outstanding during the fourth, third, second and first quarters of 2011, respectively.
- (6) Based on 36,608,038, 36,501,373, 36,447,607 and 36,383,158 shares of Solar Capital Ltd. outstanding as of the end of the fourth, third, second and first quarters of 2011, respectively.

Table of Contents

- (7) Based on 34,267,088, 33,165,867, 33,029,516 and 32,553,322 weighted average shares of Solar Capital Ltd. outstanding during each of the fourth, third, second and first quarters of 2010, respectively.
- (8) Based on 36,383,158, 33,168,872, 33,030,641 and 32,928,257 shares of Solar Capital Ltd. outstanding as of the end of the fourth, third, second and first quarter of 2010, respectively.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Before you invest in our securities, you should be aware of various risks, including those described below. You should carefully consider these risk factors, together with all of the other information included in this prospectus, before you decide whether to make an investment in our securities. The risks set out below are not the only risks we face. If any of the following events occur, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially adversely affected. In such case, our net asset value and the trading price of our common stock could decline or the value of our preferred stock, debt securities, or warrants may decline, and you may lose all or part of your investment.

Risks Related to Our Investments

We operate in a highly competitive market for investment opportunities.

A number of entities compete with us to make the types of investments that we target in leveraged companies. We compete with other BDCs, public and private funds, commercial and investment banks, commercial financing companies and, to the extent they provide an alternative form of financing, private equity funds. Many of our competitors are substantially larger and have considerably greater financial, technical and marketing resources than we do. For example, some competitors may have a lower cost of funds and access to funding sources that are not available to us. In addition, some of our competitors may have higher risk tolerances or different risk assessments than we do, which could allow them to consider a wider variety of investments and establish more relationships than us. Furthermore, many of our competitors are not subject to the regulatory restrictions that the 1940 Act imposes on us. If we are unable to source attractive investments, we may hold a greater percentage of our assets in cash than anticipated, which could impact potential returns on our portfolio. We cannot assure you that the competitive pressures we face will not have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Also, as a result of this competition, we may not be able to take advantage of attractive investment opportunities from time to time, and we can offer no assurance that we will be able to identify and make investments that are consistent with our investment objective.

We do not seek to compete primarily based on the interest rates we will offer, and we believe that some of our competitors may make loans with interest rates that will be comparable to or lower than the rates we offer. We may lose investment opportunities if we do not match our competitors' pricing, terms and structure. However, if we match our competitors' pricing, terms and structure, we may experience decreased net interest income and increased risk of credit loss.

Our investments are very risky and highly speculative.

We invest primarily in senior secured term loans, mezzanine loans and preferred securities, and select equity investments issued by leveraged companies.

Senior Secured Loans. When we make a senior secured term loan investment in a portfolio company, we generally take a security interest in the available assets of the portfolio company, including the equity interests of its subsidiaries, which we expect to help mitigate the risk that we will not be repaid. However, there is a risk that the collateral securing our loans may decrease in value over time, may be difficult to sell in a timely manner, may be difficult to appraise and may fluctuate in value based upon the success of the business and market conditions, including as a result of the inability of the portfolio company to raise additional capital, and, in some circumstances, our lien could be subordinated to claims of other creditors. In addition, deterioration in a portfolio company's financial condition and prospects, including its inability to raise

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

additional capital, may be accompanied by deterioration in the value of the collateral for the loan. Consequently, the fact that a loan is secured does not guarantee that we will receive principal and interest payments according to the loan's terms, or at all, or that we will be able to collect on the loan should we be forced to enforce our remedies.

Mezzanine Loans and Preferred Securities. Our mezzanine and preferred investments are generally subordinated to senior loans and are generally unsecured. As such, other creditors may rank senior to us in the event of an insolvency. This may result in an above average amount of risk and loss of principal.

Table of Contents

Equity Investments. When we invest in senior secured loans, mezzanine loans or preferred securities, we may acquire common equity securities as well. In addition, we may invest directly in the equity securities of portfolio companies. Our goal is ultimately to exit such equity interests and realize gains upon our disposition of such interests. However, the equity interests we receive may not appreciate in value and, in fact, may decline in value. Accordingly, we may not be able to realize gains from our equity interests, and any gains that we do realize on the disposition of any equity interests may not be sufficient to offset any other losses we experience.

In addition, investing in middle-market companies involves a number of significant risks, including:

these companies may have limited financial resources and may be unable to meet their obligations under their debt securities that we hold, which may be accompanied by a deterioration in the value of any collateral and a reduction in the likelihood of us realizing any guarantees we may have obtained in connection with our investment;

they typically have shorter operating histories, narrower product lines and smaller market shares than larger businesses, which tend to render them more vulnerable to competitors' actions and market conditions, as well as general economic downturns;

they are more likely to depend on the management talents and efforts of a small group of persons; therefore, the death, disability, resignation or termination of one or more of these persons could have a material adverse impact on our portfolio company and, in turn, on us;

they generally have less predictable operating results, may from time to time be parties to litigation, may be engaged in rapidly changing businesses with products subject to a substantial risk of obsolescence, and may require substantial additional capital to support their operations, finance expansion or maintain their competitive position. In addition, our executive officers, directors and our investment adviser may, in the ordinary course of business, be named as defendants in litigation arising from our investments in the portfolio companies; and

they may have difficulty accessing the capital markets to meet future capital needs, which may limit their ability to grow or to repay their outstanding indebtedness upon maturity.

The lack of liquidity in our investments may adversely affect our business.

We generally make investments in private companies. We invest and expect to continue investing in companies whose securities have no established trading market and whose securities are and will be subject to legal and other restrictions on resale or whose securities are and will be less liquid than are publicly-traded securities. The illiquidity of our investments may make it difficult for us to sell such investments if the need arises. In addition, if we are required to liquidate all or a portion of our portfolio quickly, we may realize significantly less than the value at which we have previously recorded our investments. As a result, we do not expect to achieve liquidity in our investments in the near-term. However, to maintain our qualification as a business development company and as a RIC, we may have to dispose of investments if we do not satisfy one or more of the applicable criteria under the respective regulatory frameworks. In addition, we may face other restrictions on our ability to liquidate an investment in a portfolio company to the extent that we have material non-public information regarding such portfolio company.

Our portfolio may be concentrated in a limited number of portfolio companies and industries, which will subject us to a risk of significant loss if any of these companies performs poorly or defaults on its obligations under any of its debt instruments or if there is a downturn in a particular industry.

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

Our portfolio may be concentrated in a limited number of portfolio companies and industries. Beyond the asset diversification requirements associated with our qualification as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code, we do not have fixed guidelines for diversification, and while we are not targeting any specific industries, our investments may be concentrated in relatively few industries or portfolio companies. As a result, the aggregate

Table of Contents

returns we realize may be significantly adversely affected if a small number of investments perform poorly or if we need to write down the value of any one investment. Additionally, a downturn in any particular industry in which we are invested could also significantly impact the aggregate returns we realize.

Our investments in securities rated below investment grade are speculative in nature and are subject to additional risk factors such as increased possibility of default, illiquidity of the security, and changes in value based on changes in interest rates.

The securities that we invest in are typically rated below investment grade. Securities rated below investment grade are often referred to as leveraged loans, high yield or junk securities, and may be considered high risk compared to debt instruments that are rated investment grade. High yield securities are regarded as having predominantly speculative characteristics with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay interest and repay principal in accordance with the terms of the obligations and involve major risk exposure to adverse conditions. In addition, high yield securities generally offer a higher current yield than that available from higher grade issues, but typically involve greater risk. These securities are especially sensitive to adverse changes in general economic conditions, to changes in the financial condition of their issuers and to price fluctuation in response to changes in interest rates. During periods of economic downturn or rising interest rates, issuers of below investment grade instruments may experience financial stress that could adversely affect their ability to make payments of principal and interest and increase the possibility of default.

The secondary market for high yield securities may not be as liquid as the secondary market for more highly rated securities. In addition, some of our debt investments will not fully amortize during their lifetime, which could result in a loss or a substantial amount of unpaid principal and interest due upon maturity.

Capital markets have recently been in a period of disruption and instability. These market conditions have materially and adversely affected the global debt and equity capital markets, which had, and may in the future have, a negative impact on our business and operations.

The global capital markets have recently been in a period of disruption as evidenced by a lack of liquidity in the debt capital markets, significant write-offs in the financial services sector, the re-pricing of credit risk in the broadly syndicated credit market and the failure of certain major financial institutions. Despite actions of the United States federal government and foreign governments, these events contributed to worsening general economic conditions that materially and adversely impacted the broader financial and credit markets and reduced the availability of debt and equity capital for the market as a whole and financial services firms in particular. These conditions could continue for a prolonged period of time or worsen in the future. While these conditions persist, we and other companies in the financial services sector may have to access, if available, alternative markets for debt and equity capital. Equity capital may be difficult to raise because, subject to some limited exceptions which as of the date of this prospectus apply to us, as a BDC we are generally not able to issue additional shares of our common stock at a price less than net asset value without first obtaining approval for such issuance from our stockholders and our independent directors. At our 2013 Annual Stockholders Meeting, our stockholders approved our ability to sell or otherwise issue shares of our common stock, not exceeding 25% of our then outstanding common stock immediately prior to each such offering, at a price or prices below the then current net asset value per share, in each case subject to the approval of our board of directors and compliance with the conditions set forth in the proxy statement pertaining thereto, during a period beginning on April 30, 2013 and expiring on the earlier of the one-year anniversary of the date of the 2013 Annual Stockholders Meeting and the date of our 2014 Annual Stockholders Meeting, which is expected to be held on May 6, 2014. However, notwithstanding such stockholder approval, since our initial public offering on February 9, 2010, we have not sold any shares of our common stock at a price below our then current net asset value per share. Any offering of our common stock that requires stockholder approval must occur, if at all, within one year after receiving such stockholder approval. In addition, our ability to incur indebtedness (including by issuing preferred stock) is limited by applicable regulations such that our asset coverage, as defined in the 1940 Act, must equal at least 200% immediately after each time we incur indebtedness. The debt capital that will be available, if at all, may be at a higher cost and on less favorable terms and conditions in the future. Any inability to raise capital could have a negative effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

The illiquidity of our investments may make it difficult for us to sell such investments if required. As a result, we may realize significantly less than the value at which we have recorded our investments. In addition,

Table of Contents

significant changes in the capital markets, including the recent extreme volatility and disruption, have had, and may in the future have, a negative effect on the valuations of our investments and on the potential for liquidity events involving our investments. An inability to raise capital, and any required sale of our investments for liquidity purposes, could have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

If we cannot obtain additional capital because of either regulatory or market price constraints, we could be forced to curtail or cease our new lending and investment activities, our net asset value could decrease and our level of distributions and liquidity could be affected adversely.

Our ability to secure additional financing and satisfy our financial obligations under indebtedness outstanding from time to time will depend upon our future operating performance, which is subject to the prevailing general economic and credit market conditions, including interest rate levels and the availability of credit generally, and financial, business and other factors, many of which are beyond our control. The prolonged continuation or worsening of current economic and capital market conditions could have a material adverse effect on our ability to secure financing on favorable terms, if at all.

If we are unable to obtain debt capital, then our equity investors will not benefit from the potential for increased returns on equity resulting from leverage to the extent that our investment strategy is successful and we may be limited in our ability to make new commitments or fundings to our portfolio companies.

Uncertainty about the financial stability of the United States and of several countries in the European Union (EU) could have a significant adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Due to federal budget deficit concerns, S&P downgraded the federal government's credit rating from AAA to AA+ for the first time in history on August 5, 2011. Further, Moody's and Fitch have warned that they may downgrade the federal government's credit rating. Further downgrades or warnings by S&P or other rating agencies, and the government's credit and deficit concerns in general, could cause interest rates and borrowing costs to rise, which may negatively impact both the perception of credit risk associated with our debt portfolio and our ability to access the debt markets on favorable terms. In addition, a decreased credit rating could create broader financial turmoil and uncertainty, which may weigh heavily on our financial performance and the value of our common stock.

In 2010, a financial crisis emerged in Europe, triggered by high budget deficits and rising direct and contingent sovereign debt in Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal and Spain, which created concerns about the ability of these nations to continue to service their sovereign debt obligations. Risks and ongoing concerns resulting from the debt crisis in Europe could have a detrimental impact on the global economic recovery, sovereign and non-sovereign debt in these countries and the financial condition of European financial institutions. Market and economic disruptions have affected, and may continue to affect, consumer confidence levels and spending, personal bankruptcy rates, levels of incurrence and default on consumer debt and home prices, among other factors. We cannot assure you that the market disruptions in Europe, including the increased cost of funding for certain governments and financial institutions, will not spread, and we cannot assure you that future assistance packages will be available, or if available, sufficient to stabilize the affected countries and markets in Europe or elsewhere. To the extent uncertainty regarding any economic recovery in Europe continues to negatively impact consumer confidence and consumer credit factors, our business and results of operations could be significantly and adversely affected.

On December 18, 2013, the U.S. Federal Reserve announced that it would scale back its bond-buying program, or quantitative easing, which is designed to stimulate the economy and expand the Federal Reserve's holdings of long-term securities until key economic indicators, such as the unemployment rate, show signs of improvement. The Federal Reserve signaled it would reduce its purchases of long-term Treasury bonds and

would scale back on its purchases of mortgage-backed securities. It is unclear what effect, if any, the incremental

Table of Contents

reduction in the rate of the Federal Reserve's monthly purchases will have on the value of our investments. However, it is possible that absent continued quantitative easing by the Federal Reserve, these developments, along with the European sovereign debt crisis, could cause interest rates and borrowing costs to rise, which may negatively impact our ability to access the debt markets on favorable terms.

A failure or the perceived risk of a failure to raise the statutory debt limit of the United States could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

As has been widely reported, the United States Treasury Secretary has stated that the federal government may not be able to meet its debt payments in the relatively near future unless the federal debt ceiling is raised. If legislation increasing the debt ceiling is not enacted and the debt ceiling is reached, the federal government may stop or delay making payments on its obligations. A failure by Congress to raise the debt limit would increase the risk of default by the United States on its obligations, as well as the risk of other economic dislocations.

If the U.S. government fails to complete its budget process or to provide for a continuing resolution before the expiration of the current continuing resolution, another federal government shutdown may result. Such a failure or the perceived risk of such a failure, consequently, could have a material adverse effect on the financial markets and economic conditions in the United States and throughout the world. It could also limit our ability and the ability of our portfolio companies to obtain financing, and it could have a material adverse effect on the valuation of our portfolio companies. Consequently, the continued uncertainty in the general economic environment, including the recent government shutdown and potential debt ceiling implications, as well as in specific economies of several individual geographic markets in which our portfolio companies operate, could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Uncertainty relating to the LIBOR calculation process may adversely affect the value of our portfolio of the LIBOR-indexed, floating-rate debt securities.

Concerns have been publicized that some of the member banks surveyed by the British Bankers' Association (BBA) in connection with the calculation of LIBOR across a range of maturities and currencies may have been under-reporting or otherwise manipulating the inter-bank lending rate applicable to them in order to profit on their derivatives positions or to avoid an appearance of capital insufficiency or adverse reputational or other consequences that may have resulted from reporting inter-bank lending rates higher than those they actually submitted. A number of BBA member banks have entered into settlements with their regulators and law enforcement agencies with respect to alleged manipulation of LIBOR, and investigations by regulators and governmental authorities in various jurisdictions are ongoing.

Actions by the BBA, regulators or law enforcement agencies may result in changes to the manner in which LIBOR is determined. Uncertainty as to the nature of such potential changes may adversely affect the market for LIBOR-based securities, including our portfolio of LIBOR-indexed, floating-rate debt securities. In addition, any further changes or reforms to the determination or supervision of LIBOR may result in a sudden or prolonged increase or decrease in reported LIBOR, which could have an adverse impact on the market for LIBOR-based securities or the value of our portfolio of LIBOR-indexed, floating-rate debt securities.

Economic recessions or downturns could impair our portfolio companies and harm our operating results.

Many of our portfolio companies may be susceptible to economic slowdowns or recessions and may be unable to repay our loans during these periods. Therefore, our non-performing assets may increase and the value of our portfolio may decrease during these periods as we are required

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

to record the values of our investments. Adverse economic conditions also may decrease the value of collateral securing some of our loans and the value of our equity investments at fair value. Economic slowdowns or recessions could lead to financial losses in our portfolio and a decrease in revenues, net income and assets. Unfavorable economic conditions also could increase our funding costs, limit our access to the capital markets or result in a decision by lenders not to extend credit to us. These events could prevent us from increasing investments and harm our operating results.

Table of Contents

A portfolio company's failure to satisfy financial or operating covenants imposed by us or other lenders could lead to defaults and, potentially, acceleration of the time when the loans are due and foreclosure on its secured assets, which could trigger cross-defaults under other agreements and jeopardize the portfolio company's ability to meet its obligations under the debt that we hold. We may incur additional expenses to the extent necessary to seek recovery upon default or to negotiate new terms with a defaulting portfolio company. In addition, if one of our portfolio companies were to go bankrupt, depending on the facts and circumstances, including the extent to which we actually provided significant managerial assistance to that portfolio company, a bankruptcy court might re-characterize our debt holdings and subordinate all or a portion of our claim to that of other creditors.

These portfolio companies may face intense competition, including competition from companies with greater financial resources, more extensive research and development, manufacturing, marketing and service capabilities and greater number of qualified and experienced managerial and technical personnel. They may need additional financing which they are unable to secure and which we are unable or unwilling to provide, or they may be subject to adverse developments unrelated to the technologies they acquire.

We may suffer a loss if a portfolio company defaults on a loan and the underlying collateral is not sufficient.

In the event of a default by a portfolio company on a secured loan, we will only have recourse to the assets collateralizing the loan. If the underlying collateral value is less than the loan amount, we will suffer a loss. In addition, we sometimes make loans that are unsecured, which are subject to the risk that other lenders may be directly secured by the assets of the portfolio company. In the event of a default, those collateralized lenders would have priority over us with respect to the proceeds of a sale of the underlying assets. In cases described above, we may lack control over the underlying asset collateralizing our loan or the underlying assets of the portfolio company prior to a default, and as a result the value of the collateral may be reduced by acts or omissions by owners or managers of the assets.

In the event of bankruptcy of a portfolio company, we may not have full recourse to its assets in order to satisfy our loan, or our loan may be subject to equitable subordination. In addition, certain of our loans are subordinate to other debt of the portfolio company. If a portfolio company defaults on our loan or on debt senior to our loan, or in the event of a portfolio company bankruptcy, our loan will be satisfied only after the senior debt receives payment. Where debt senior to our loan exists, the presence of inter-creditor arrangements may limit our ability to amend our loan documents, assign our loans, accept prepayments, exercise our remedies (through standstill periods) and control decisions made in bankruptcy proceedings relating to the portfolio company. Bankruptcy and portfolio company litigation can significantly increase collection losses and the time needed for us to acquire the underlying collateral in the event of a default, during which time the collateral may decline in value, causing us to suffer losses.

If the value of collateral underlying our loan declines or interest rates increase during the term of our loan, a portfolio company may not be able to obtain the necessary funds to repay our loan at maturity through refinancing. Decreasing collateral value and/or increasing interest rates may hinder a portfolio company's ability to refinance our loan because the underlying collateral cannot satisfy the debt service coverage requirements necessary to obtain new financing. If a borrower is unable to repay our loan at maturity, we could suffer a loss which may adversely impact our financial performance.

The business, financial condition and results of operations of our portfolio companies could be adversely affected by worldwide economic conditions, as well as political and economic conditions in the countries in which they conduct business.

The business and operating results of our portfolio companies may be impacted by worldwide economic conditions. Although the U.S. economy has in recent quarters shown signs of recovery from the 2008-2009 global recession, the strength and duration of any economic recovery will be

impacted by worldwide economic growth. For instance, a number of recent reports indicate that growth in China and other emerging markets may

Table of Contents

be slowing relative to historical growth rates. The significant debt in U.S. and European countries is expected to hinder growth in those countries for the foreseeable future. Multiple factors relating to the international operations of some of our portfolio companies and to particular countries in which they operate could negatively impact their business, financial condition and results of operations.

Some of the products of our portfolio companies are developed, manufactured, assembled, tested or marketed outside the U.S. Any conflict or uncertainty in these countries, including due to natural disasters, public health concerns, political unrest or safety concerns, could harm their business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, if the government of any country in which their products are developed, manufactured or sold sets technical or regulatory standards for products developed or manufactured in or imported into their country that are not widely shared, it may lead some of their customers to suspend imports of their products into that country, require manufacturers or developers in that country to manufacture or develop products with different technical or regulatory standards and disrupt cross-border manufacturing, marketing or business relationships which, in each case, could harm their businesses.

The affect of global climate change may impact the operations of our portfolio companies.

There may be evidence of global climate change. Climate change creates physical and financial risk and some of our portfolio companies may be adversely affected by climate change. For example, the needs of customers of energy companies vary with weather conditions, primarily temperature and humidity. To the extent weather conditions are affected by climate change, energy use could increase or decrease depending on the duration and magnitude of any changes. Increases in the cost of energy could adversely affect the cost of operations of our portfolio companies if the use of energy products or services is material to their business. A decrease in energy use due to weather changes may affect some of our portfolio companies' financial condition, through decreased revenues. Extreme weather conditions in general require more system backup, adding to costs, and can contribute to increased system stresses, including service interruptions.

Price declines and illiquidity in the corporate debt markets may adversely affect, and may continue to adversely affect, the fair value of our portfolio investments, reducing our net asset value through increased net unrealized depreciation. Any unrealized depreciation that we experience on our loan portfolio may be an indication of future realized losses, which could reduce our income available for distribution and could adversely affect our ability to service our outstanding borrowings.

As a BDC, we are required to carry our investments at market value or, if no market value is ascertainable, at fair value as determined in good faith by or under the direction of our board of directors. Decreases in the market values or fair values of our investments are recorded as unrealized depreciation. Any unrealized depreciation in our loan portfolio could be an indication of a portfolio company's inability to meet its repayment obligations to us with respect to the affected loans. This could result in realized losses in the future and ultimately in reductions of our income available for distribution in future periods and could materially adversely affect our ability to service our outstanding borrowings. The unprecedented declines in prices and liquidity in the corporate debt markets from 2008 through mid-2010 resulted in significant net unrealized depreciation in our portfolio, reducing our net asset value. Depending on market conditions, we could incur substantial losses in future periods, which could further reduce our net asset value and have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Our failure to make follow-on investments in our portfolio companies could impair the value of our portfolio.

Following an initial investment in a portfolio company, we may make additional investments in that portfolio company as follow-on investments, in order to: (i) increase or maintain in whole or in part our equity ownership percentage; (ii) exercise warrants, options or convertible securities that were acquired in the original or subsequent financing; or (iii) attempt to preserve or enhance the value of our investment. We may elect not to make follow-on investments or otherwise lack sufficient funds to make those investments. We will have the

Table of Contents

discretion to make any follow-on investments, subject to the availability of capital resources. The failure to make follow-on investments may, in some circumstances, jeopardize the continued viability of a portfolio company and our initial investment, or may result in a missed opportunity for us to increase our participation in a successful operation. Even if we have sufficient capital to make a desired follow-on investment, we may elect not to make a follow-on investment because we may not want to increase our concentration of risk, either because we prefer other opportunities or because we are subject to BDC requirements that would prevent such follow-on investments or the desire to maintain our RIC tax status.

Where we do not hold controlling equity interests in our portfolio companies, we may not be in a position to exercise control over our portfolio companies or to prevent decisions by management of our portfolio companies that could decrease the value of our investments.

Although we hold controlling equity positions in some of our portfolio companies, we do not currently hold controlling equity positions in the majority of our portfolio companies. As a result, we are subject to the risk that a portfolio company in which we do not have a controlling interest may make business decisions with which we disagree, and that the management and/or stockholders of such portfolio company may take risks or otherwise act in ways that are adverse to our interests. Due to the lack of liquidity of the debt and equity investments that we typically hold in our portfolio companies, we may not be able to dispose of our investments in the event we disagree with the actions of a portfolio company and may therefore suffer a decrease in the value of our investments.

Prepayments of our debt investments by our portfolio companies could adversely impact our results of operations and reduce our return on equity.

We are subject to the risk that the investments we make in our portfolio companies may be prepaid prior to maturity. When this occurs, we may reduce our borrowings outstanding or reinvest these proceeds in temporary investments, pending their future investment in new portfolio companies. These temporary investments, if any, will typically have substantially lower yields than the debt investment being prepaid and we could experience significant delays in reinvesting these amounts. Any future investment in a new portfolio company may also be at lower yields than the debt investment that was prepaid. As a result, our results of operations could be materially adversely affected if one or more of our portfolio companies elect to prepay amounts owed to us. Additionally, prepayments could negatively impact our return on equity, which could result in a decline in the market price of our common stock.

We may choose to waive or defer enforcement of covenants in the debt securities held in our portfolio, which may cause us to lose all or part of our investment in these companies.

We structure the debt investments in our portfolio companies to include business and financial covenants placing affirmative and negative obligations on the operation of the company's business and its financial condition. However, from time to time we may elect to waive breaches of these covenants, including our right to payment, or waive or defer enforcement of remedies, such as acceleration of obligations or foreclosure on collateral, depending upon the financial condition and prospects of the particular portfolio company. These actions may reduce the likelihood of our receiving the full amount of future payments of interest or principal and be accompanied by a deterioration in the value of the underlying collateral as many of these companies may have limited financial resources, may be unable to meet future obligations and may go bankrupt. This could negatively impact our ability to pay dividends, could adversely affect our results of operation and financial condition and cause the loss of all or part of your investment.

Our loans could be subject to equitable subordination by a court which would increase our risk of loss with respect to such loans.

Courts may apply the doctrine of equitable subordination to subordinate the claim or lien of a lender against a borrower to claims or liens of other creditors of the borrower, when the lender or its affiliates is found to have

Table of Contents

engaged in unfair, inequitable or fraudulent conduct. The courts have also applied the doctrine of equitable subordination when a lender or its affiliates is found to have exerted inappropriate control over a client, including control resulting from the ownership of equity interests in a client. We have made direct equity investments or received warrants in connection with loans. Payments on one or more of our loans, particularly a loan to a client in which we also hold an equity interest, may be subject to claims of equitable subordination. If we were deemed to have the ability to control or otherwise exercise influence over the business and affairs of one or more of our portfolio companies resulting in economic hardship to other creditors of that company, this control or influence may constitute grounds for equitable subordination and a court may treat one or more of our loans as if it were unsecured or common equity in the portfolio company. In that case, if the portfolio company were to liquidate, we would be entitled to repayment of our loan on a pro-rata basis with other unsecured debt or, if the effect of subordination was to place us at the level of common equity, then on an equal basis with other holders of the portfolio company's common equity only after all of its obligations relating to its debt and preferred securities had been satisfied.

An investment strategy focused primarily on privately held companies presents certain challenges, including the lack of available information about these companies, a dependence on the talents and efforts of only a few key portfolio company personnel and a greater vulnerability to economic downturns.

We invest primarily in privately held companies. Generally, little public information exists about these companies, and we are required to rely on the ability of Solar Capital Partners' investment professionals to obtain adequate information to evaluate the potential returns from investing in these companies. If we are unable to uncover all material information about these companies, we may not make a fully informed investment decision, and we may lose money on our investments. Also, privately held companies frequently have less diverse product lines and smaller market presence than larger competitors. These factors could adversely affect our investment returns as compared to companies investing primarily in the securities of public companies.

Our portfolio companies may incur debt that ranks equally with, or senior to, our investments in such companies.

We invest primarily in senior secured loans, mezzanine loans, preferred securities, and equity securities issued by our portfolio companies. Our portfolio companies typically have, or may be permitted to incur, other debt that ranks equally with, or senior to, the debt securities in which we invest. By their terms, such debt instruments may provide that the holders are entitled to receive payment of interest or principal on or before the dates on which we are entitled to receive payments in respect of the debt securities in which we invest. Also, in the event of insolvency, liquidation, dissolution, reorganization or bankruptcy of a portfolio company, holders of debt instruments ranking senior to our investment in that portfolio company would typically be entitled to receive payment in full before we receive any distribution in respect of our investment. After repaying such senior creditors, such portfolio company may not have any remaining assets to use for repaying its obligation to us. In the case of debt ranking equally with debt securities in which we invest, we would have to share on an equal basis any distributions with other creditors holding such debt in the event of an insolvency, liquidation, dissolution, reorganization or bankruptcy of the relevant portfolio company. Any such limitations on the ability of our portfolio companies to make principal or interest payments to us, if at all, may reduce our net asset value and have a negative material adverse impact to our business, financial condition and results of operation.

Our investments in foreign securities may involve significant risks in addition to the risks inherent in U.S. investments.

Our investment strategy contemplates potential investments in debt securities of foreign companies. Investing in foreign companies may expose us to additional risks not typically associated with investing in U.S. companies. These risks include changes in exchange control regulations, political and social instability, expropriation, imposition of foreign taxes, less liquid markets and less available information than is generally the case in the

Table of Contents

United States, higher transaction costs, less government supervision of exchanges, brokers and issuers, less developed bankruptcy laws, difficulty in enforcing contractual obligations, lack of uniform accounting and auditing standards and greater price volatility.

Although most of our investments will be U.S. dollar-denominated, any investments denominated in a foreign currency will be subject to the risk that the value of a particular currency will change in relation to one or more other currencies. Among the factors that may affect currency values are trade balances, the level of short-term interest rates, differences in relative values of similar assets in different currencies, long-term opportunities for investment and capital appreciation, and political developments. We may employ hedging techniques to minimize these risks, but we can offer no assurance that we will, in fact, hedge currency risk, or that if we do, such strategies will be effective.

We may expose ourselves to risks if we engage in hedging transactions.

If we engage in hedging transactions, we may expose ourselves to risks associated with such transactions. We may utilize instruments such as forward contracts, currency options and interest rate swaps, caps, collars and floors to seek to hedge against fluctuations in the relative values of our portfolio positions from changes in currency exchange rates and market interest rates. Hedging against a decline in the values of our portfolio positions does not eliminate the possibility of fluctuations in the values of such positions or prevent losses if the values of such positions decline. However, such hedging can establish other positions designed to gain from those same developments, thereby offsetting the decline in the value of such portfolio positions. Such hedging transactions may also limit the opportunity for gain if the values of the underlying portfolio positions should increase. It may not be possible to hedge against an exchange rate or interest rate fluctuation that is so generally anticipated that we are not able to enter into a hedging transaction at an acceptable price. Moreover, for a variety of reasons, we may not seek to establish a perfect correlation between such hedging instruments and the portfolio holdings being hedged. Any such imperfect correlation may prevent us from achieving the intended hedge and expose us to risk of loss. In addition, it may not be possible to hedge fully or perfectly against currency fluctuations affecting the value of securities denominated in non-U.S. currencies because the value of those securities is likely to fluctuate as a result of factors not related to currency fluctuations. To the extent we engage in hedging transactions, we also face the risk that counterparties to the derivative instruments we hold may default, which may expose us to unexpected losses from positions where we believed that our risk had been appropriately hedged.

Our investment adviser may not be able to achieve the same or similar returns as those achieved by our senior investment professionals while they were employed at prior positions.

Although in the past our senior investment professionals held senior positions at a number of investment firms, their track record and achievements are not necessarily indicative of future results that will be achieved by our investment adviser. In their roles at such other firms, our senior investment professionals were part of investment teams, and they were not solely responsible for generating investment ideas. In addition, such investment teams arrived at investment decisions by consensus.

Risks Relating to an Investment in Our Securities

Our shares may trade at a substantial discount from net asset value and may continue to do so over the long term.

Shares of closed-end investment companies have frequently traded at a market price that is less than the net asset value that is attributable to those shares. The possibility that our shares of common stock will trade at a substantial discount from net asset value over the long term is

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

separate and distinct from the risk that our net asset value will decrease. We cannot predict whether shares of our common stock will trade above, at or below our net asset value. If our common stock trades below its net asset value, we will generally not be able to issue additional shares or sell our common stock at its market price without first obtaining the approval for such issuance from our stockholders and our independent directors. At our 2013 Annual Stockholders Meeting, our

Table of Contents

stockholders approved our ability to sell or otherwise issue shares of our common stock, not exceeding 25% of our then outstanding common stock immediately prior to each such offering, at a price or prices below the then current net asset value per share, in each case subject to the approval of our board of directors and compliance with the conditions set forth in the proxy statement pertaining thereto, during a period beginning on April 30, 2013 and expiring on the earlier of the one-year anniversary of the date of the 2013 Annual Stockholders Meeting and the date of our 2014 Annual Stockholders Meeting, which is expected to be held on May 6, 2014. However, notwithstanding such stockholder approval, since our initial public offering on February 9, 2010, we have not sold any shares of our common stock at a price below our then current net asset value per share. Any offering of our common stock that requires stockholder approval must occur, if at all, within one year after receiving such stockholder approval. If additional funds are not available to us, we could be forced to curtail or cease our new lending and investment activities, and our net asset value could decrease and our level of distributions could be impacted.

Our common stock price may be volatile and may decrease substantially.

The trading price of our common stock may fluctuate substantially. The price of our common stock that will prevail in the market may be higher or lower than the price you pay, depending on many factors, some of which are beyond our control and may not be directly related to our operating performance. These factors include, but are not limited to, the following:

price and volume fluctuations in the overall stock market from time to time;

investor demand for our shares;

significant volatility in the market price and trading volume of securities of BDCs or other companies in our sector, which are not necessarily related to the operating performance of these companies;

exclusion of our common stock from certain market indices, such as the Russell 2000 Financial Services Index, which could reduce the ability of certain investment funds to own our common stock and put short-term selling pressure on our common stock.

changes in regulatory policies or tax guidelines with respect to RICs or BDCs;

failure to qualify as a RIC, or the loss of RIC status;

any shortfall in revenue or net income or any increase in losses from levels expected by investors or securities analysts;

changes, or perceived changes, in the value of our portfolio investments;

departures of Solar Capital Partners' key personnel;

operating performance of companies comparable to us; or

general economic conditions and trends and other external factors.

In the past, following periods of volatility in the market price of a company's securities, securities class action litigation has often been brought against that company. Due to the potential volatility of our stock price, we may become the target of securities litigation in the future. Securities litigation could result in substantial costs and divert management's attention and resources from our business.

There is a risk that our stockholders may not receive distributions or that our distributions may not grow over time.

We intend to make distributions on a quarterly basis to our stockholders out of assets legally available for distribution. We cannot assure you that we will achieve investment results that will allow us to make a specified level of cash distributions or year-to-year increases in cash distributions. In addition, due to the asset coverage test applicable to us as a BDC, we may be limited in our ability to make distributions. As a RIC, if we do not distribute a certain percentage of our income annually, we will suffer adverse tax consequences, including failure to obtain, or possible loss of, the federal income tax benefits allowable to RICs. We cannot assure you that you will receive distributions at a particular level or at all.

Table of Contents

We may choose to pay dividends in our own common stock, in which case our stockholders may be required to pay federal income taxes in excess of the cash dividends they receive.

We may distribute taxable dividends that are payable in cash or shares of our common stock at the election of each stockholder. Under certain applicable provisions of the Code and the Treasury regulations, distributions payable in cash or in shares of stock at the election of stockholders are treated as taxable dividends. The Internal Revenue Service has issued private rulings indicating that this rule will apply even where the total amount of cash that may be distributed is limited to no more than 20% of the total distribution. Under these rulings, if too many stockholders elect to receive their distributions in cash, each such stockholder would receive a pro rata share of the total cash to be distributed and would receive the remainder of their distribution in shares of stock. If we decide to make any distributions consistent with these rulings that are payable in part in our stock, taxable stockholders receiving such dividends will be required to include the full amount of the dividend (whether received in cash, our stock, or a combination thereof) as ordinary income (or as long-term capital gain to the extent such distribution is properly reported as a capital gain dividend) to the extent of our current and accumulated earnings and profits for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As a result, a U.S. stockholder may be required to pay tax with respect to such dividends in excess of any cash received. If a U.S. stockholder sells the stock it receives as a dividend in order to pay this tax, the sales proceeds may be less than the amount included in income with respect to the dividend, depending on the market price of our stock at the time of the sale. Furthermore, with respect to non-U.S. stockholders, we may be required to withhold U.S. tax with respect to such dividends, including in respect of all or a portion of such dividend that is payable in stock. In addition, if a significant number of our stockholders determine to sell shares of our stock in order to pay taxes owed on dividends, it may put downward pressure on the trading price of our stock. For a more detailed discussion, see Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations.

Sales of substantial amounts of our common stock in the public market may have an adverse effect on the market price of our common stock.

The shares of our common stock beneficially owned by each of Messrs. Gross and Spohler immediately prior to completion of our initial public offering, including any shares that are attributable to such shares issued pursuant to our dividend reinvestment plan, are no longer subject to lock-up restrictions that each of Messrs. Gross and Spohler agreed to in connection with our initial public offering, and are generally available for resale without restriction, subject to the provisions of Rule 144 promulgated under the Securities Act. In addition, on November 30, 2010, Messrs. Gross and Spohler jointly acquired 115,000 shares of our common stock in a private placement transaction conducted in accordance with Regulation D under the Securities Act. Such shares have been registered with the SEC and are generally available for resale. Sales of substantial amounts of our common stock, or the availability of such common stock for sale, could adversely affect the prevailing market prices for our common stock. If this occurs and continues, it could impair our ability to raise additional capital through the sale of securities should we desire to do so.

We will have broad discretion over the use of proceeds of any offering made pursuant to this prospectus, to the extent it is successful.

We will have significant flexibility in applying the proceeds of any offering made pursuant to this prospectus. We will also pay operating expenses, and may pay other expenses such as due diligence expenses of potential new investments, from net proceeds. Our ability to achieve our investment objective may be limited to the extent that the net proceeds of the offering, pending full investment, are used to pay operating expenses. In addition, we can provide you no assurance that an offering will be successful, or that by increasing the size of our available equity capital our aggregate expenses, and correspondingly, our expense ratio, will be lowered.

Table of Contents

The net asset value per share of our common stock may be diluted if we issue or sell shares of our common stock at prices below the then current net asset value per share of our common stock or securities to subscribe for or convertible into shares of our common stock.

At our 2013 Annual Stockholders Meeting, our stockholders approved our ability to sell or otherwise issue shares of our common stock, not exceeding 25% of our then outstanding common stock immediately prior to each such offering, at a price or prices below the then current net asset value per share, in each case subject to the approval of our board of directors and compliance with the conditions set forth in the proxy statement pertaining thereto, during a period beginning on April 30, 2013 and expiring on the earlier of the one-year anniversary of the date of the 2013 Annual Stockholders Meeting and the date of our 2014 Annual Stockholders Meeting, which is expected to be held on May 6, 2014. However, notwithstanding such stockholder approval, since our initial public offering on February 9, 2010, we have not sold any shares of our common stock at a price below our then current net asset value per share. Any offering of our common stock that requires stockholder approval must occur, if at all, within one year after receiving such stockholder approval.

In addition, at our 2011 Annual Stockholders Meeting, our stockholders authorized us to sell or otherwise issue warrants or securities to subscribe for or convertible into shares of our common stock subject to certain limitations (including, without limitation, that the number of shares issuable does not exceed 25% of our then outstanding common stock and that the exercise or conversion price thereof is not, at the date of issuance, less than the market value per share of our common stock). Such authorization has no expiration.

We may also use newly issued shares to implement our dividend reinvestment plan, whether our shares are trading at a premium or at a discount to our then current net asset value per share. Any decision to issue or sell shares of our common stock below our then current net asset value per share or securities to subscribe for or convertible into shares of our common stock would be subject to the determination by our board of directors that such issuance or sale is in our and our stockholders' best interests.

To the extent we receive the necessary stockholder approval, if we were to issue or sell shares of our common stock below our then current net asset value per share, such issuances or sales would result in an immediate dilution to the net asset value per share of our common stock. This dilution would occur as a result of the issuance or sale of shares at a price below the then current net asset value per share of our common stock and a proportionately greater decrease in the stockholders' interest in our earnings and assets and their voting interest in us than the increase in our assets resulting from such issuance or sale. Because the number of shares of common stock that could be so issued and the timing of any issuance is not currently known, the actual dilutive effect cannot be predicted.

In addition, if we issue warrants or securities to subscribe for or convertible into shares of our common stock, subject to certain limitations, the exercise or conversion price per share could be less than net asset value per share at the time of exercise or conversion (including through the operation of anti-dilution protections). Because we would incur expenses in connection with any issuance of such securities, such issuance could result in a dilution of the net asset value per share at the time of exercise or conversion. This dilution would include reduction in net asset value per share as a result of the proportionately greater decrease in the stockholders' interest in our earnings and assets and their voting interest than the increase in our assets resulting from such issuance.

Further, if our current stockholders do not purchase any shares to maintain their percentage interest, regardless of whether such offering is above or below the then current net asset value per share, their voting power will be diluted. For example, if we sell an additional 10% of our common shares at a 5% discount from net asset value, a stockholder who does not participate in that offering for its proportionate interest will suffer net asset value dilution of up to 0.5% or \$5 per \$1000 of net asset value. For additional information and hypothetical examples of these risks, see

Sale of Common Stock Below Net Asset Value and the prospectus supplement pursuant to which such sale is made. Similarly, all dividends declared in cash payable to stockholders that are participants in our dividend reinvestment plan are generally automatically reinvested in shares of our common stock. As a result, stockholders that do not participate in the dividend reinvestment plan may experience dilution

Table of Contents

over time. Stockholders who do not elect to receive dividends in shares of common stock may experience accretion to the net asset value of their shares if our shares are trading at a premium and dilution if our shares are trading at a discount. The level of accretion or discount would depend on various factors, including the proportion of our stockholders who participate in the plan, the level of premium or discount at which our shares are trading and the amount of the dividend payable to a stockholder.

If we issue preferred stock, the net asset value and market value of our common stock may become more volatile.

We cannot assure you that the issuance of preferred stock would result in a higher yield or return to the holders of the common stock. The issuance of preferred stock would likely cause the net asset value and market value of the common stock to become more volatile. If the dividend rate on the preferred stock were to approach the net rate of return on our investment portfolio, the benefit of leverage to the holders of the common stock would be reduced. If the dividend rate on the preferred stock were to exceed the net rate of return on our portfolio, the leverage would result in a lower rate of return to the holders of common stock than if we had not issued preferred stock. Any decline in the net asset value of our investments would be borne entirely by the holders of common stock. Therefore, if the market value of our portfolio were to decline, the leverage would result in a greater decrease in net asset value to the holders of common stock than if we were not leveraged through the issuance of preferred stock. This greater net asset value decrease would also tend to cause a greater decline in the market price for the common stock. We might be in danger of failing to maintain the required asset coverage of the preferred stock or of losing our ratings on the preferred stock or, in an extreme case, our current investment income might not be sufficient to meet the dividend requirements on the preferred stock. In order to counteract such an event, we might need to liquidate investments in order to fund a redemption of some or all of the preferred stock. In addition, we would pay (and the holders of common stock would bear) all costs and expenses relating to the issuance and ongoing maintenance of the preferred stock, including higher advisory fees if our total return exceeds the dividend rate on the preferred stock. Holders of preferred stock may have different interests than holders of common stock and may at times have disproportionate influence over our affairs.

Holders of any preferred stock we might issue would have the right to elect members of the board of directors and class voting rights on certain matters.

Holders of any preferred stock we might issue, voting separately as a single class, would have the right to elect two members of the board of directors at all times and in the event dividends become two full years in arrears would have the right to elect a majority of the directors until such arrearage is completely eliminated. In addition, preferred stockholders have class voting rights on certain matters, including changes in fundamental investment restrictions and conversion to open-end status, and accordingly can veto any such changes. Restrictions imposed on the declarations and payment of dividends or other distributions to the holders of our common stock and preferred stock, both by the 1940 Act and by requirements imposed by rating agencies or the terms of our credit facilities, might impair our ability to maintain our qualification as a RIC for federal income tax purposes. While we would intend to redeem our preferred stock to the extent necessary to enable us to distribute our income as required to maintain our qualification as a RIC, there can be no assurance that such actions could be effected in time to meet the tax requirements.

Risks Relating to Our Business and Structure

We are dependent upon Solar Capital Partners' key personnel for our future success.

We depend on the diligence, skill and network of business contacts of Messrs. Gross and Spohler, who serve as the managing member and a partner of Solar Capital Partners, respectively, and who lead Solar Capital Partners' investment team. Messrs. Gross and Spohler, together with the other dedicated investment professionals available to Solar Capital Partners, evaluate, negotiate, structure, close and monitor our

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

investments. Our future success will depend on the continued service of Messrs. Gross and Spohler and the other investment professionals available to Solar Capital Partners. We cannot assure you that unforeseen business, medical,

Table of Contents

personal or other circumstances would not lead any such individual to terminate his relationship with us. The loss of Mr. Gross or Mr. Spohler, or any of the other senior investment professionals who serve on Solar Capital Partners' investment team, could have a material adverse effect on our ability to achieve our investment objective as well as on our financial condition and results of operations. In addition, we can offer no assurance that Solar Capital Partners will remain our investment adviser.

The senior investment professionals of Solar Capital Partners are and may in the future become affiliated with entities engaged in business activities similar to those intended to be conducted by us, and may have conflicts of interest in allocating their time. We expect that Messrs. Gross and Spohler will dedicate a significant portion of their time to the activities of Solar Capital; however, they may be engaged in other business activities which could divert their time and attention in the future. Specifically each of Messrs. Gross and Spohler serve as chief executive officer and chief operating officer, respectively, of Solar Senior.

Our business model depends to a significant extent upon strong referral relationships with financial sponsors, and the inability of the senior investment professionals of our investment adviser to maintain or develop these relationships, or the failure of these relationships to generate investment opportunities, could adversely affect our business.

We expect that the principals of our investment adviser will maintain and develop their relationships with financial sponsors, and we will rely to a significant extent upon these relationships to provide us with potential investment opportunities. If the senior investment professionals of our investment adviser fail to maintain their existing relationships or develop new relationships with other sponsors or sources of investment opportunities, we will not be able to grow our investment portfolio. In addition, individuals with whom the senior investment professionals of our investment adviser have relationships are not obligated to provide us with investment opportunities, and, therefore, there is no assurance that such relationships will generate investment opportunities for us. If our investment adviser is unable to source investment opportunities, we may hold a greater percentage of our assets in cash than anticipated, which could impact potential returns on our portfolio.

A disruption in the capital markets and the credit markets could negatively affect our business.

As a BDC, we must maintain our ability to raise additional capital for investment purposes. Without sufficient access to the capital markets or credit markets, we may be forced to curtail our business operations or we may not be able to pursue new business opportunities. Disruptive conditions in the financial industry and the impact of new legislation in response to those conditions could restrict our business operations and could adversely impact our results of operations and financial condition.

If the fair value of our assets declines substantially, we may fail to maintain the asset coverage ratios imposed upon us by the 1940 Act and the Credit Facility. Any such failure could result in an event of default and all of our debt being declared immediately due and payable and would affect our ability to issue senior securities, including borrowings, and pay dividends, which could materially impair our business operations. Our liquidity could be impaired further by an inability to access the capital markets or to draw on our credit facilities. For example, we cannot be certain that we will be able to renew our credit facilities as they mature or to consummate new borrowing facilities to provide capital for normal operations, including new originations. Reflecting concern about the stability of the financial markets, many lenders and institutional investors have reduced or ceased providing funding to borrowers. This market turmoil and tightening of credit have led to increased market volatility and widespread reduction of business activity generally.

If we are unable to renew or replace such facilities and consummate new facilities on commercially reasonable terms, our liquidity will be reduced significantly. If we are unable to repay amounts outstanding under such facilities and are declared in default or are unable to renew or refinance these facilities, we would not be able to initiate significant originations or to operate our business in the normal course. These

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

situations may arise due to circumstances that we may be unable to control, such as inaccessibility to the credit markets, a severe decline in the value of the U.S. dollar, a further economic downturn or an operational problem that affects third parties or us,

Table of Contents

and could materially damage our business. Moreover, we are unable to predict when economic and market conditions may become more favorable. Even if such conditions improve broadly and significantly over the long term, adverse conditions in particular sectors of the financial markets could adversely impact our business.

Our financial condition and results of operations will depend on our ability to manage future growth effectively.

Our ability to achieve our investment objective and to grow depends on Solar Capital Partners' ability to identify, invest in and monitor companies that meet our investment criteria.

Accomplishing this result on a cost-effective basis is largely a function of Solar Capital Partners' structuring of the investment process, its ability to provide competent, attentive and efficient services to us and its ability to access financing for us on acceptable terms. The investment team of Solar Capital Partners has substantial responsibilities under the Investment Advisory and Management Agreement, and they may also be called upon to provide managerial assistance to our portfolio companies as the principals of our administrator. Such demands on their time may distract them or slow our rate of investment. In order to grow, we and Solar Capital Partners will need to retain, train, supervise and manage new investment professionals. However, we can offer no assurance that any such investment professionals will contribute effectively to the work of the investment adviser. Any failure to manage our future growth effectively could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We may need to raise additional capital to grow because we must distribute most of our income.

We may need additional capital to fund growth in our investments. We expect to issue equity securities and expect to borrow from financial institutions in the future. A reduction in the availability of new capital could limit our ability to grow. We must distribute at least 90% of our investment company taxable income to our stockholders to maintain our regulated investment company status. As a result, any such cash earnings may not be available to fund investment originations. We expect to borrow from financial institutions and issue additional debt and equity securities. If we fail to obtain funds from such sources or from other sources to fund our investments, it could limit our ability to grow, which may have an adverse effect on the value of our securities. In addition, as a BDC, our ability to borrow or issue additional preferred stock may be restricted if our total assets are less than 200% of our total borrowings and preferred stock.

Any failure on our part to maintain our status as a BDC would reduce our operating flexibility.

The 1940 Act imposes numerous constraints on the operations of BDCs. For example, BDCs are required to invest at least 70% of their total assets in specified types of securities, primarily in private companies or thinly-traded U.S. public companies, cash, cash equivalents, U.S. government securities and other high quality debt investments that mature in one year or less. Furthermore, any failure to comply with the requirements imposed on BDCs by the 1940 Act could cause the SEC to bring an enforcement action against us and/or expose us to claims of private litigants. In addition, upon approval of a majority of our stockholders, we may elect to withdraw our status as a BDC. If we decide to withdraw our election, or if we otherwise fail to qualify, or maintain our qualification, as a BDC, we may be subject to the substantially greater regulation under the 1940 Act as a closed-end investment company. Compliance with such regulations would significantly decrease our operating flexibility, and could significantly increase our costs of doing business.

Regulations governing our operation as a BDC affect our ability to, and the way in which we raise additional capital. As a BDC, the necessity of raising additional capital may expose us to risks, including the typical risks associated with leverage.

In order to satisfy the tax requirements applicable to a RIC, to avoid payment of excise taxes and to minimize or avoid payment of income taxes, we intend to distribute to our stockholders substantially all of our ordinary income and realized net capital gains except for certain realized net long-term capital gains, which we

Table of Contents

may retain, pay applicable income taxes with respect thereto and elect to treat as deemed distributions to our stockholders. We may issue debt securities or preferred stock and/or borrow money from banks or other financial institutions, which we refer to collectively as senior securities, up to the maximum amount permitted by the 1940 Act. Under the provisions of the 1940 Act, we will be permitted, as a BDC, to issue senior securities in amounts such that our asset coverage ratio, as defined in the 1940 Act, equals at least 200% of gross assets less all liabilities and indebtedness not represented by senior securities, after each issuance of senior securities. If the value of our assets declines, we may be unable to satisfy this test. If that happens, we may be required to sell a portion of our investments and, depending on the nature of our leverage, repay a portion of our indebtedness at a time when such sales may be disadvantageous. Also, any amounts that we use to service our indebtedness would not be available for distributions to our common stockholders. Furthermore, as a result of issuing senior securities, we would also be exposed to typical risks associated with leverage, including an increased risk of loss.

As of December 31, 2013, we had \$50 million outstanding under the Credit Facility, composed of \$0 of revolving credit and \$50 million outstanding of term loans. We also had \$75 million outstanding of the Senior Secured Notes and \$100 million outstanding of the Unsecured Notes. If we issue preferred stock, the preferred stock would rank senior to common stock in our capital structure, preferred stockholders would have separate voting rights on certain matters and might have other rights, preferences, or privileges more favorable than those of our common stockholders, and the issuance of preferred stock could have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a transaction or a change of control that might involve a premium price for holders of our common stock or otherwise be in your best interest.

We are not generally able to issue and sell our common stock at a price below net asset value per share. We may, however, sell our common stock, or warrants, options or rights to acquire our common stock, at a price below the then-current net asset value per share of our common stock if our board of directors determines that such sale is in the best interests of Solar Capital and its stockholders, and our stockholders approve such sale. In any such case, the price at which our securities are to be issued and sold may not be less than a price that, in the determination of our board of directors, closely approximates the market value of such securities (less any distributing commission or discount). If we raise additional funds by issuing more common stock or senior securities convertible into, or exchangeable for, our common stock, then the percentage ownership of our stockholders at that time will decrease, and you might experience dilution. This dilution would occur as a result of a proportionately greater decrease in a stockholder's interest in our earnings and assets and voting interest in us than the increase in our assets resulting from such issuance. Because the number of future shares of common stock that may be issued below our net asset value per share and the price and timing of such issuances are not currently known, we cannot predict the actual dilutive effect of any such issuance. We cannot determine the resulting reduction in our net asset value per share of any such issuance. We also cannot predict whether shares of our common stock will trade above, at or below our net asset value.

At our 2013 Annual Stockholders Meeting, our stockholders approved our ability to sell or otherwise issue shares of our common stock, not exceeding 25% of our then outstanding common stock immediately prior to each such offering, at a price or prices below the then current net asset value per share, in each case subject to the approval of our board of directors and compliance with the conditions set forth in the proxy statement pertaining thereto, during a period beginning on April 30, 2013 and expiring on the earlier of the one-year anniversary of the date of the 2013 Annual Stockholders Meeting and the date of our 2014 Annual Stockholders Meeting, which is expected to be held on May 6, 2014. However, notwithstanding such stockholder approval, since our initial public offering on February 9, 2010, we have not sold any shares of our common stock at a price below our then current net asset value per share. Any offering of our common stock that requires stockholder approval must occur, if at all, within one year after receiving such stockholder approval.

The trading market or market value of our publicly issued debt securities may fluctuate.

Our publicly issued debt securities, including the Unsecured Notes, may or may not have an established trading market. We cannot assure you that a trading market for our publicly issued debt securities will be maintained. In addition to our creditworthiness, many factors may materially adversely affect the trading market

Table of Contents

for, and market value of, our publicly issued debt securities. These factors include, but are not limited to, the following:

the time remaining to the maturity of these debt securities;

the outstanding principal amount of debt securities with terms identical to these debt securities;

the ratings assigned by national statistical ratings agencies;

the general economic environment;

the supply of debt securities trading in the secondary market, if any;

the redemption or repayment features, if any, of these debt securities;

the level, direction and volatility of market interest rates generally; and

market rates of interest higher or lower than rates borne by the debt securities. You should also be aware that there may be a limited number of buyers when you decide to sell your debt securities. This too may materially adversely affect the market value of the debt securities or the trading market for the debt securities.

Our credit ratings may not reflect all risks of an investment in our debt securities.

Our credit ratings are an assessment by third parties of our ability to pay our obligations. Consequently, real or anticipated changes in our credit ratings will generally affect the market value of our debt securities. Our credit ratings, however, may not reflect the potential impact of risks related to market conditions generally or other factors discussed above on the market value of or trading market for the publicly issued debt securities.

Our stockholders will experience dilution in their ownership percentage if they opt out of our dividend reinvestment plan.

All dividends declared in cash payable to stockholders that are participants in our dividend reinvestment plan are automatically reinvested in shares of our common stock. As a result, our stockholders that opt out of our dividend reinvestment plan will experience dilution in their ownership percentage of our common stock over time.

We may borrow money, which would magnify the potential for loss on amounts invested and may increase the risk of investing in us.

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

The use of leverage magnifies the potential for loss on amounts invested and, therefore, increases the risks associated with investing in our securities. As of December 31, 2013, we had \$50 million outstanding on the Credit Facility, composed of \$0 of revolving credit and \$50 million of term loans. We also had \$75 million outstanding of the Senior Secured Notes and \$100 million outstanding of the Unsecured Notes. We may borrow from and issue senior debt securities to banks, insurance companies and other lenders in the future. Lenders of these senior securities, including the Credit Facility and notes, will have fixed dollar claims on our assets that are superior to the claims of our common stockholders, and we would expect such lenders to seek recovery against our assets in the event of a default. If the value of our assets decreases, leveraging would cause net asset value to decline more sharply than it otherwise would have had we not leveraged. Similarly, any decrease in our income would cause net income to decline more sharply than it would have had we not borrowed. Such a decline could also negatively affect our ability to make dividend payments on our common stock. Leverage is generally considered a speculative investment technique. Our ability to service any debt that we incur will depend largely on our financial performance and will be subject to prevailing economic conditions and competitive pressures. Moreover, as the management fee payable to our investment adviser, Solar Capital Partners, will be payable based on our gross assets, including those assets acquired through the use of leverage, Solar Capital Partners will have a financial incentive to incur leverage which may not be consistent with our stockholders' interests. In addition, our common stockholders will bear the burden of any increase in our expenses as a result of leverage, including any increase in the management fee payable to Solar Capital Partners.

Table of Contents

As a BDC, we generally are required to meet a coverage ratio of total assets to total borrowings and other senior securities, which include all of our borrowings and any preferred stock that we may issue in the future, of at least 200%. Additionally, the Credit Facility requires us to comply with certain financial and other restriction covenants including maintaining an asset coverage ratio of not less than 200% at any time. Failure to maintain compliance with these covenants could result in an event of default and all of our debt being declared immediately due and payable. If this ratio declines below 200%, we may not be able to incur additional debt and could be required by law to sell a portion of our investments to repay some debt when it is disadvantageous to do so, which could have a material adverse effect on our operations, and we may not be able to make distributions. The amount of leverage that we employ will depend on our investment advisers and our board of directors' assessment of market and other factors at the time of any proposed borrowing. We cannot assure you that we will be able to obtain credit at all or on terms acceptable to us.

In addition, the Credit Facility imposes, and any other debt facility into which we may enter would likely impose financial and operating covenants that restrict our business activities, including limitations that could hinder our ability to finance additional loans and investments or to make the distributions required to maintain our status as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code.

Illustration. The following table illustrates the effect of leverage on returns from an investment in our common stock assuming various annual returns on the portfolio, net of interest expense. The calculations in the table below are hypothetical and actual returns may be higher or lower than those appearing in the table below.

	Assumed total return (net of interest expense)				
	(10)%	(5)%	0%	5%	10%
Corresponding return to stockholder(1)	(18.3)%	(9.7)%	(1.1)%	7.5%	16.1%

- (1) Assumes \$1.71 billion in total assets and \$225 million in total debt outstanding, which reflects our total assets and total debt outstanding as of December 31, 2013, and a cost of funds of 4.83%. Excludes non-leverage related expenses.

It is likely that the terms of any current or future long-term or revolving credit or warehouse facility we may enter into in the future could constrain our ability to grow our business.

Under our borrowings and the Credit Facility, current lenders have, and any future lender or lenders may have, fixed dollar claims on our assets that are senior to the claims of our stockholders and, thus, will have a preference over our stockholders with respect to our assets in the collateral pool. Our current Credit Facility and borrowings also subject us to various financial and operating covenants, including, but not limited to, maintaining certain financial ratios and minimum tangible net worth amounts. Future credit facilities and borrowings will likely subject us to similar or additional covenants. In addition, we may grant a securities interest in our assets in connection with any such credit facilities and borrowings.

The Credit Facility generally contains customary default provisions such as a minimum net worth amount, a profitability test, and a restriction on changing our business and loan quality standards. In addition, the Credit Facility requires or is expected to require the repayment of all outstanding debt on the maturity which may disrupt our business and potentially the business of our portfolio companies that are financed through the Credit Facility. An event of default under the Credit Facility would likely result, among other things, in termination of the availability of further funds under the Credit Facility and accelerated maturity dates for all amounts outstanding under the facilities, which would likely disrupt our business and, potentially, the business of the portfolio companies whose loans we finance through the facilities. This could

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

reduce our revenues and, by delaying any cash payment allowed to us under our facilities until the lender has been paid in full, reduce our liquidity and cash flow and impair our ability to grow our business and maintain our status as a RIC.

Table of Contents

The terms of future available financing may place limits on our financial and operation flexibility. If we are unable to obtain sufficient capital in the future, we may be forced to reduce or discontinue our operations, not be able to make new investments, or otherwise respond to changing business conditions or competitive pressures.

To the extent we use debt or preferred stock to finance our investments, changes in interest rates will affect our cost of capital and net investment income.

To the extent we borrow money, or issue preferred stock, to make investments, our net investment income will depend, in part, upon the difference between the rate at which we borrow funds or pay dividends on preferred stock and the rate at which we invest those funds. As a result, we can offer no assurance that a significant change in market interest rates will not have a material adverse effect on our net investment income in the event we use debt to finance our investments. In periods of rising interest rates, our cost of funds would increase, except to the extent we issue fixed rate debt or preferred stock, which could reduce our net investment income. We expect that our long-term fixed-rate investments will be financed primarily with equity and long-term debt. We may use interest rate risk management techniques in an effort to limit our exposure to interest rate fluctuations. Such techniques may include various interest rate hedging activities to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act.

You should also be aware that a rise in the general level of interest rates can be expected to lead to higher interest rates applicable to our debt investments. Accordingly, an increase in interest rates would make it easier for us to meet or exceed the incentive fee hurdle rate and may result in a substantial increase of the amount of incentive fees payable to our investment adviser with respect to our pre-incentive fee net investment income.

We may in the future determine to fund a portion of our investments with preferred stock, which would magnify the potential for loss and the risks of investing in us in a similar way as our borrowings.

Preferred stock, which is another form of leverage, has the same risks to our common stockholders as borrowings because the dividends on any preferred stock we issue must be cumulative. Payment of such dividends and repayment of the liquidation preference of such preferred stock must take preference over any dividends or other payments to our common stockholders, and preferred stockholders are not subject to any of our expenses or losses and are not entitled to participate in any income or appreciation in excess of their stated preference.

Pending legislation may allow us to incur additional leverage.

As a business development company, under the 1940 Act generally we are not permitted to incur indebtedness unless immediately after such borrowing we have an asset coverage for total borrowings of at least 200% (i.e., the amount of debt may not exceed 50% of the value of our total assets). Recent legislation introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives, if passed, would modify this section of the 1940 Act and increase the amount of debt that business development companies may incur by modifying the percentage from 200% to 150%. As a result, we may be able to incur additional indebtedness in the future and therefore your risk of an investment in us may increase.

There will be uncertainty as to the value of our portfolio investments.

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

A large percentage of our portfolio investments are in the form of securities that are not publicly traded. The fair value of securities and other investments that are not publicly traded may not be readily determinable. We value these securities on a quarterly basis in accordance with our valuation policy, which is at all times consistent with U.S. generally accepted accounting policies (GAAP). Our board of directors utilizes the services of third-party valuation firms to aid it in determining the fair value of these securities. The board of directors discusses valuations and determines the fair value in good faith based on the input of our investment adviser and the respective third-party valuation firms. The factors that may be considered in fair value pricing our investments include the nature and realizable value of any collateral, the portfolio company s ability to make payments and its earnings, the markets in which the portfolio company does business, comparisons to publicly traded companies,

Table of Contents

discounted cash flow and other relevant factors. Because such valuations, and particularly valuations of private securities and private companies, are inherently uncertain, may fluctuate over short periods of time and may be based on estimates, our determinations of fair value may differ materially from the values that would have been used if a ready market for these securities existed. Our net asset value could be adversely affected if our determinations regarding the fair value of our investments were materially higher than the values that we ultimately realize upon the disposal of such securities.

Our quarterly and annual operating results are subject to fluctuation as a result of the nature of our business, and if we fail to achieve our investment objective, the net asset value of our common stock may decline.

We could experience fluctuations in our quarterly and annual operating results due to a number of factors, some of which are beyond our control, including, but not limited to, the interest rate payable on the debt securities that we acquire, the default rate on such securities, the level of our expenses, variations in and the timing of the recognition of realized and unrealized gains or losses, changes in our portfolio composition, the degree to which we encounter competition in our markets, market volatility in our publicly traded securities and the securities of our portfolio companies, and general economic conditions. As a result of these factors, results for any period should not be relied upon as being indicative of performance in future periods. In addition, any of these factors could negatively impact our ability to achieve our investment objectives, which may cause our net asset value of our common stock to decline.

Our investments may be in portfolio companies which may have limited operating histories and financial resources.

We expect that our portfolio will continue to consist of investments that may have relatively limited operating histories. These companies may be particularly vulnerable to U.S. and foreign economic downturns such as the current recession and European financial crisis may have more limited access to capital and higher funding costs, may have a weaker financial position and may need more capital to expand or compete. These businesses also may experience substantial variations in operating results. They may face intense competition, including from companies with greater financial, technical and marketing resources. Furthermore, some of these companies do business in regulated industries and could be affected by changes in government regulation. Accordingly, these factors could impair their cash flow or result in other events, such as bankruptcy, which could limit their ability to repay their obligations to us, and may adversely affect the return on, or the recovery of, our investment in these companies. We cannot assure you that any of our investments in our portfolio companies will be successful. Our portfolio companies compete with larger, more established companies with greater access to, and resources for, further development in these new technologies. We may lose our entire investment in any or all of our portfolio companies.

Our equity ownership in a portfolio company may represent a control investment. Our ability to exit an investment in a timely manner because we are in a control position or have access to inside information in the portfolio company could result in a realized loss on the investment.

If we obtain a control investment in a portfolio company our ability to divest ourselves from a debt or equity investment could be restricted due to illiquidity in a private stock, limited trading volume on a public company's stock, inside information on a company's performance, insider blackout periods, or other factors that could prohibit us from disposing of the investment as we would if it were not a control investment. Additionally, we may choose not to take certain actions to protect a debt investment in a control investment portfolio company. As a result, we could experience a decrease in the value of our portfolio company holdings and potentially incur a realized loss on the investment.

There are significant potential conflicts of interest which could impact our investment returns.

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

Our executive officers and directors, as well as the current and future partners of our investment adviser, Solar Capital Partners, may serve as officers, directors or principals of entities that operate in the same or a

Table of Contents

related line of business as we do. For example, Solar Capital Partners presently serves as investment adviser to Solar Senior, a publicly-traded BDC which focuses on investing primarily in senior secured loans, including first lien, unitranche and second lien debt instruments. In addition, Michael S. Gross, our chairman and chief executive officer, Bruce Spohler, our chief operating officer, and Richard Peteka, our chief financial officer, serve in similar capacities for Solar Senior. Accordingly, they may have obligations to investors in those entities, the fulfillment of which obligations might not be in the best interests of us or our stockholders. In addition, we note that any affiliated investment vehicle formed in the future and managed by our investment adviser or its affiliates may, notwithstanding different stated investment objectives, have overlapping investment objectives with our own and, accordingly, may invest in asset classes similar to those targeted by us. As a result, Solar Capital Partners may face conflicts in allocating investment opportunities between us and such other entities. Although Solar Capital Partners will endeavor to allocate investment opportunities in a fair and equitable manner, it is possible that, in the future, we may not be given the opportunity to participate in investments made by investment funds managed by our investment adviser or an investment manager affiliated with our investment adviser. In any such case, when Solar Capital Partners identifies an investment, it will be forced to choose which investment fund should make the investment.

If our investment adviser forms other affiliates in the future, we may co-invest on a concurrent basis with such other affiliates, subject to compliance with applicable regulations and regulatory guidance and our allocation procedures.

In the course of our investing activities, we pay management and incentive fees to Solar Capital Partners and reimburse Solar Capital Partners for certain expenses it incurs. As a result, investors in our common stock will invest on a gross basis and receive distributions on a net basis after expenses, resulting in a lower rate of return than an investor might achieve through direct investments. Accordingly, there may be times when the management team of Solar Capital Partners has interests that differ from those of our stockholders, giving rise to a conflict.

We have entered into a royalty-free license agreement with our investment adviser, pursuant to which our investment adviser has granted us a non-exclusive license to use the name Solar Capital. Under the license agreement, we have the right to use the Solar Capital name for so long as Solar Capital Partners or one of its affiliates remains our investment adviser. In addition, we pay Solar Capital Management, an affiliate of Solar Capital Partners, our allocable portion of overhead and other expenses incurred by Solar Capital Management in performing its obligations under the Administration Agreement, including rent, the fees and expenses associated with performing compliance functions, and our allocable portion of the compensation of our chief financial officer and any administrative support staff. These arrangements create conflicts of interest that our board of directors must monitor.

We may be obligated to pay our investment adviser incentive compensation even if we incur a loss.

Our investment adviser will be entitled to incentive compensation for each fiscal quarter in an amount equal to a percentage of the excess of our pre-incentive fee net investment income for that quarter (before deducting incentive compensation) above a performance threshold for that quarter. Accordingly, since the performance threshold is based on a percentage of our net asset value, decreases in our net asset value make it easier to achieve the performance threshold. Our pre-incentive fee net investment income for incentive compensation purposes excludes realized and unrealized capital losses or depreciation that we may incur in the fiscal quarter, even if such capital losses or depreciation result in a net loss on our statement of operations for that quarter. Thus, we may be required to pay Solar Capital Partners incentive compensation for a fiscal quarter even if there is a decline in the value of our portfolio or we incur a net loss for that quarter.

Our incentive fee may induce Solar Capital Partners to pursue speculative investments.

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

The incentive fee payable by us to Solar Capital Partners may create an incentive for Solar Capital Partners to pursue investments on our behalf that are riskier or more speculative than would be the case in the absence of

Table of Contents

such compensation arrangement. The incentive fee payable to our investment adviser is calculated based on a percentage of our return on invested capital. This may encourage our investment adviser to use leverage to increase the return on our investments. Under certain circumstances, the use of leverage may increase the likelihood of default, which would impair the value of our common stock. In addition, the investment adviser receives the incentive fee based, in part, upon net capital gains realized on our investments. Unlike that portion of the incentive fee based on income, there is no hurdle rate applicable to the portion of the incentive fee based on net capital gains. As a result, the investment adviser may have a tendency to invest more capital in investments that are likely to result in capital gains as compared to income producing securities. Such a practice could result in our investing in more speculative securities than would otherwise be the case, which could result in higher investment losses, particularly during economic downturns.

The incentive fee payable by us to our investment adviser also may induce Solar Capital Partners to invest on our behalf in instruments that have a deferred interest feature, even if such deferred payments would not provide cash necessary to enable us to pay current distributions to our shareholders. Under these investments, we would accrue interest over the life of the investment but would not receive the cash income from the investment until the end of the term. Our net investment income used to calculate the income portion of our investment fee, however, includes accrued interest. Thus, a portion of this incentive fee would be based on income that we have not yet received in cash. In addition, the catch-up portion of the incentive fee may encourage Solar Capital Partners to accelerate or defer interest payable by portfolio companies from one calendar quarter to another, potentially resulting in fluctuations in timing and dividend amounts.

We may invest, to the extent permitted by law, in the securities and instruments of other investment companies, including private funds, and, to the extent we so invest, will bear our ratable share of any such investment company's expenses, including management and performance fees. We will also remain obligated to pay management and incentive fees to Solar Capital Partners with respect to the assets invested in the securities and instruments of other investment companies. With respect to each of these investments, each of our stockholders will bear his or her share of the management and incentive fee of Solar Capital Partners as well as indirectly bearing the management and performance fees and other expenses of any investment companies in which we invest.

We will become subject to corporate-level income tax if we are unable to qualify and maintain our qualification as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Code.

Although we have elected to be treated as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code, no assurance can be given that we will be able to qualify for and maintain RIC status. To maintain RIC tax treatment under the Code, we must meet the following annual distribution, income source and asset diversification requirements.

The annual distribution requirement for a RIC will be satisfied if we distribute to our stockholders on an annual basis at least 90% of our net ordinary income and realized net short-term capital gains in excess of realized net long-term capital losses, if any. Because we may use debt financing, we are subject to certain asset coverage ratio requirements under the 1940 Act and financial covenants under loan and credit agreements that could, under certain circumstances, restrict us from making distributions necessary to satisfy the distribution requirement. If we are unable to obtain cash from other sources, we could fail to qualify for RIC tax treatment and thus become subject to corporate-level income tax.

The income source requirement will be satisfied if we obtain at least 90% of our income for each year from dividends, interest, gains from the sale of stock or securities or similar sources.

The asset diversification requirement will be satisfied if we meet certain asset diversification requirements at the end of each quarter of our taxable year. Failure to meet those requirements may result in our having to dispose of certain investments quickly in order to prevent the loss of RIC status. Because most of our investments will be in private companies, and therefore will be relatively illiquid, any such dispositions could be made at disadvantageous prices and could result in substantial losses.

Table of Contents

If we fail to qualify for RIC tax treatment for any reason and become subject to corporate income tax, the resulting corporate taxes could substantially reduce our net assets, the amount of income available for distribution and the amount of our distributions. Such a failure would have a material adverse effect on us, the net asset value of our common stock and the total return, if any, obtainable from your investment in our common stock. Any net operating losses that we incur in periods during which we qualify as a RIC will not offset net capital gains (i.e., net realized long-term capital gains in excess of net realized short-term capital losses) that we are otherwise required to distribute, and we cannot pass such net operating losses through to our stockholders. In addition, net operating losses that we carry over to a taxable year in which we qualify as a RIC normally cannot offset ordinary income or capital gains.

We may have difficulty satisfying the annual distribution requirement in order to qualify and maintain RIC status if we recognize income before or without receiving cash representing such income.

In accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and tax requirements, we include in income certain amounts that we have not yet received in cash, such as contractual payment-in-kind (PIK) interest, which represents contractual interest added to a loan balance and due at the end of such loan s term. In addition to the cash yields received on our loans, in some instances, certain loans may also include any of the following: end-of-term payments, exit fees, balloon payment fees or prepayment fees. The increases in loan balances as a result of contractual PIK arrangements are included in income for the period in which such PIK interest was accrued, which is often in advance of receiving cash payment, and are separately identified on our statements of cash flows. We also may be required to include in income certain other amounts prior to receiving the related cash.

Any warrants that we receive in connection with our debt investments will generally be valued as part of the negotiation process with the particular portfolio company. As a result, a portion of the aggregate purchase price for the debt investments and warrants will be allocated to the warrants that we receive. This will generally result in original issue discount for tax purposes, which we must recognize as ordinary income, increasing the amount that we are required to distribute to qualify for the federal income tax benefits applicable to RICs. Because these warrants generally will not produce distributable cash for us at the same time as we are required to make distributions in respect of the related original issue discount, we would need to obtain cash from other sources or to pay a portion of our distributions using shares of newly issued common stock, consistent with Internal Revenue Service requirements, to satisfy such distribution requirements.

Other features of the debt instruments that we hold may also cause such instruments to generate an original issue discount, resulting in a dividend distribution requirement in excess of current cash interest received. Since in certain cases we may recognize income before or without receiving cash representing such income, we may have difficulty meeting the RIC tax requirement to distribute at least 90% of our net ordinary income and realized net short-term capital gains in excess of realized net long-term capital losses, if any. Under such circumstances, we may have to sell some of our investments at times we would not consider advantageous, raise additional debt or equity capital or reduce new investment originations to meet these distribution requirements. If we are unable to obtain cash from other sources and are otherwise unable to satisfy such distribution requirements, we may fail to qualify for the federal income tax benefits allowable to RICs and, thus, become subject to a corporate-level income tax on all our income. See Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations.

Our board of directors is authorized to reclassify any unissued shares of common stock into one or more classes of preferred stock, which could convey special rights and privileges to its owners.

Under Maryland General Corporation Law and our charter, our board of directors is authorized to classify and reclassify any authorized but unissued shares of stock into one or more classes of stock, including preferred stock. Prior to issuance of shares of each class or series, the board of directors is required by Maryland law and our charter to set the terms, preferences, conversion or other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends or other distributions, qualifications and terms or conditions of redemption for each class or series.

Table of Contents

Thus, the board of directors could authorize the issuance of shares of preferred stock with terms and conditions which could have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a transaction or a change in control that might involve a premium price for holders of our common stock or otherwise be in their best interest. The cost of any such reclassification would be borne by our existing common stockholders. Certain matters under the 1940 Act require the separate vote of the holders of any issued and outstanding preferred stock. For example, holders of preferred stock would vote separately from the holders of common stock on a proposal to cease operations as a BDC. In addition, the 1940 Act provides that holders of preferred stock are entitled to vote separately from holders of common stock to elect two preferred stock directors. We currently have no plans to issue preferred stock. The issuance of preferred shares convertible into shares of common stock might also reduce the net income and net asset value per share of our common stock upon conversion, provided, that we will only be permitted to issue such convertible preferred stock to the extent we comply with the requirements of Section 61 of the 1940 Act, including obtaining common stockholder approval. These effects, among others, could have an adverse effect on your investment in our common stock.

Provisions of the Maryland General Corporation Law and of our charter and bylaws could deter takeover attempts and have an adverse impact on the price of our common stock.

The Maryland General Corporation Law and our charter and bylaws contain provisions that may discourage, delay or make more difficult a change in control of Solar Capital or the removal of our directors. We are subject to the Maryland Business Combination Act, subject to any applicable requirements of the 1940 Act. Our board of directors has adopted a resolution exempting from the Business Combination Act any business combination between us and any other person, subject to prior approval of such business combination by our board, including approval by a majority of our disinterested directors. If the resolution exempting business combinations is repealed or our board does not approve a business combination, the Business Combination Act may discourage third parties from trying to acquire control of us and increase the difficulty of consummating such an offer. Our bylaws exempt from the Maryland Control Share Acquisition Act acquisitions of our stock by any person. If we amend our bylaws to repeal the exemption from the Control Share Acquisition Act, the Control Share Acquisition Act also may make it more difficult for a third party to obtain control of us and increase the difficulty of consummating such a transaction. However, we will amend our bylaws to be subject to the Control Share Act only if our board of directors determines that it would be in our best interests and if the SEC staff does not object to our determination that our being subject to the Control Share Act does not conflict with the 1940 Act. The SEC staff has issued informal guidance setting forth its position that certain provisions of the Control Share Act would, if implemented, violate Section 18(i) of the 1940 Act.

We have also adopted measures that may make it difficult for a third party to obtain control of us, including provisions of our charter classifying our board of directors in three classes serving staggered three-year terms, and authorizing our board of directors to classify or reclassify shares of our stock in one or more classes or series, to cause the issuance of additional shares of our stock, to amend our charter without stockholder approval and to increase or decrease the number of shares of stock that we have authority to issue. These provisions, as well as other provisions of our charter and bylaws, may delay, defer or prevent a transaction or a change in control that might otherwise be in the best interests of our stockholders.

We are highly dependent on information systems and systems failures could significantly disrupt our business, which may, in turn, negatively affect the market price of our common stock and our ability to pay dividends.

Our business is highly dependent on our and third parties' communications and information systems. Any failure or interruption of those systems, including as a result of the termination of an agreement with any third-party service providers, could cause delays or other problems in our activities. Our financial, accounting, data processing, backup or other operating systems and facilities may fail to operate properly or become disabled or damaged as a result of a number of factors including events that are wholly or partially beyond our control and adversely affect our business. There could be:

sudden electrical or telecommunications outages;

Table of Contents

natural disasters such as earthquakes, tornadoes and hurricanes;

disease pandemics;

events arising from local or larger scale political or social matters, including terrorist acts; and

cyber attacks.

These events, in turn, could have a material adverse effect on our operating results and negatively affect the market price of our common stock and our ability to pay dividends to our stockholders.

Our board of directors may change our investment objective, operating policies and strategies without prior notice or stockholder approval.

Our board of directors has the authority to modify or waive certain of our operating policies and strategies without prior notice (except as required by the 1940 Act) and without stockholder approval. However, absent stockholder approval, we may not change the nature of our business so as to cease to be, or withdraw our election as a BDC. We cannot predict the effect any changes to our current operating policies and strategies would have on our business, operating results and value of our stock. Nevertheless, the effects may adversely affect our business and impact our ability to make distributions.

Our business is subject to increasingly complex corporate governance, public disclosure and accounting requirements that could adversely affect our business and financial results.

We are subject to changing rules and regulations of federal and state government as well as the stock exchange on which our common stock is listed. These entities, including the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, the SEC and the NASDAQ Stock Market, have issued a significant number of new and increasingly complex requirements and regulations over the course of the last several years and continue to develop additional regulations and requirements in response to laws enacted by Congress. On July 21, 2010, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Protection Act, or the Dodd-Frank Act, was enacted. There are significant corporate governance-related provisions in the Dodd-Frank Act, and the SEC has adopted additional rules and regulations that may impact us. Our efforts to comply with these requirements have resulted in, and are likely to continue to result in, an increase in expenses and a diversion of management's time from other business activities.

Changes in laws or regulations governing our operations may adversely affect our business.

Changes in the laws or regulations, or the interpretations of the laws and regulations, which govern business development companies, RICs or non-depository commercial lenders could significantly affect our operations and our cost of doing business. We are subject to federal, state and local laws and regulations and are subject to judicial and administrative decisions that affect our operations, including our loan originations, maximum interest rates, fees and other charges, disclosures to portfolio companies, the terms of secured transactions, collection and foreclosure procedures, and other trade practices. If these laws, regulations or decisions change, or if we expand our business into jurisdictions that have adopted more stringent requirements than those in which we currently conduct business, then we may have to incur significant expenses in order to comply or we may have to restrict our operations. In addition, if we do not comply with applicable laws, regulations and decisions, then we

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

may lose licenses needed for the conduct of our business and be subject to civil fines and criminal penalties, any of which could have a material adverse effect upon our business results of operations or financial condition.

Over the last several years, there has been an increase in regulatory attention to the extension of credit outside of the traditional banking sector, raising the possibility that some portion of the non-bank financial sector will be subject to new regulation. While it cannot be known at this time whether these regulations will be implemented or what form they will take, increased regulation of non-bank credit extension could negatively impact our operations, cash flows or financial condition, impose additional costs on us, intensify the regulatory supervision of us or otherwise adversely affect our business.

Table of Contents

Our investment adviser can resign on 60 days' notice, and we may not be able to find a suitable replacement within that time, resulting in a disruption in our operations that could adversely affect our financial condition, business and results of operations.

Our investment adviser has the right, under the Investment Advisory and Management Agreement, to resign at any time upon 60 days' written notice, whether we have found a replacement or not. If our investment adviser resigns, we may not be able to find a new investment adviser or hire internal management with similar expertise and ability to provide the same or equivalent services on acceptable terms within 60 days, or at all. If we are unable to do so quickly, our operations are likely to experience a disruption, our financial condition, business and results of operations as well as our ability to pay distributions are likely to be adversely affected and the market price of our shares may decline. In addition, the coordination of our internal management and investment activities is likely to suffer if we are unable to identify and reach an agreement with a single institution or group of executives having the expertise possessed by our investment adviser and its affiliates. Even if we are able to retain comparable management, whether internal or external, the integration of such management and their lack of familiarity with our investment objective may result in additional costs and time delays that may adversely affect our financial condition, business and results of operations.

Table of Contents

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus contains forward-looking statements that involve substantial risks and uncertainties. These forward-looking statements are not historical facts, but rather are based on current expectations, estimates and projections about Solar Capital, our current and prospective portfolio investments, our industry, our beliefs, and our assumptions. Words such as anticipates, expects, intends, plans, believes, seeks, estimates, should, targets, projects, and variations of these words and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements.

The forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus involve risks and uncertainties, including statements as to:

our future operating results;

our business prospects and the prospects of our portfolio companies;

the impact of investments that we expect to make;

our contractual arrangements and relationships with third parties;

the dependence of our future success on the general economy and its impact on the industries in which we invest;

the ability of our portfolio companies to achieve their objectives;

our expected financings and investments;

our breach of any of the covenants or other provisions in our debt agreements;

the adequacy of our cash resources and working capital; and

the timing of cash flows, if any, from the operations of our portfolio companies.

These statements are not guarantees of future performance and are subject to risks, uncertainties, and other factors, some of which are beyond our control and difficult to predict and could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or forecasted in the forward-looking statements, including without limitation:

an economic downturn could impair our portfolio companies' ability to continue to operate, which could lead to the loss of some or all of our investments in such portfolio companies;

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

a contraction of available credit and/or an inability to access the equity markets could impair our lending and investment activities;

interest rate volatility could adversely affect our results, particularly if we elect to use leverage as part of our investment strategy;

currency fluctuations could adversely affect the results of our investments in foreign companies, particularly to the extent that we receive payments denominated in foreign currency rather than U.S. dollars; and

the risks, uncertainties and other factors we identify in **Risk Factors** and elsewhere in this prospectus and in our filings with the SEC.

Although we believe that the assumptions on which these forward-looking statements are based are reasonable, any of those assumptions could prove to be inaccurate, and as a result, the forward-looking statements based on those assumptions also could be inaccurate. Important assumptions include our ability to originate new loans and investments, certain margins and levels of profitability and the availability of additional capital. In light of these and other uncertainties, the inclusion of a projection or forward-looking statement in this prospectus should not be regarded as a representation by us that our plans and objectives will be achieved. These risks and uncertainties include those described or identified in **Risk Factors** and elsewhere in this prospectus. You should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which apply only as of the date of this prospectus. However, we will update this prospectus to reflect any material changes to the information contained herein. The forward-looking statements and projections contained in this prospectus are excluded from the safe harbor protection provided by Section 27A of the Securities Act.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of our securities pursuant to this prospectus for general corporate purposes, which may include investing in debt or equity securities consistent with our investment objective, repayment of outstanding indebtedness, acquisitions and other general corporate purposes. We are continuously identifying, reviewing and, to the extent consistent with our investment objective, funding new investments. As a result, we typically raise capital as we deem appropriate to fund such new investments. The supplement to this prospectus relating to an offering will more fully identify the use of the proceeds from such offering.

We estimate that it will take three to six months for us to substantially invest the net proceeds of any offering made pursuant to this prospectus, depending on the availability of attractive opportunities and market conditions. However, we can offer no assurance that we will be able to achieve this goal. We expect that it may take more than three months to invest all of the proceeds of an offering, in part because investments in private companies often require substantial prior research and due diligence.

Pending these uses, we will invest such net proceeds primarily in cash, cash equivalents, and U.S. government securities and other high-quality debt investments that mature in one year or less. The management fee payable by us to our investment adviser will not be reduced while our assets are invested in such securities.

Table of Contents**PRICE RANGE OF COMMON STOCK AND DISTRIBUTIONS**

Our common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol SLRC. The following table sets forth, for each fiscal quarter since our initial public offering on February 9, 2010, the net asset value (NAV) per share of our common stock, the high and low closing sales prices for our common stock, such sales prices as a percentage of NAV per share and quarterly distributions per share.

	NAV(1)	Price Range		Premium or (Discount) of High Closing Price to NAV(2)	Premium or (Discount) of Low Closing Price to NAV(2)	Declared Dividends(3)
		High	Low			
Fiscal 2014						
First Quarter (through March 25, 2014)	*	\$ 23.21	\$ 21.81	*	*	\$ 0.40
Fiscal 2013						
Fourth Quarter	\$ 22.50	\$ 23.16	\$ 21.89	2.9%	(2.7)%	\$ 0.40
Third Quarter	22.25	25.03	21.74	12.5%	(2.3)%	0.40
Second Quarter	22.40	24.32	22.11	8.6%	(1.3)%	0.60
First Quarter	23.00	25.64	23.49	11.5%	2.1%	0.60
Fiscal 2012						
Fourth Quarter	\$ 22.70	\$ 23.93	\$ 21.45	5.4%	(5.5)%	\$ 0.60
Third Quarter	22.70	23.66	22.26	4.2%	(1.9)%	0.60
Second Quarter	22.51	22.40	20.40	(0.5)%	(9.4)%	0.60
First Quarter	22.68	23.77	21.90	4.8%	(3.4)%	0.60

- (1) NAV per share is determined as of the last day in the relevant quarter and therefore may not reflect the NAV per share on the date of the high and low sales prices. The net asset values shown are based on outstanding shares at the end of each period.
 - (2) Calculated as of the respective high or low closing price divided by NAV and subtracting 1.
 - (3) Represents the cash dividend for the specified quarter.
- * Not determinable at the time of filing.

On March 25, 2014, the last reported sales price of our common stock was \$22.11 per share. As of March 25, 2014, we had 30 shareholders of record.

Shares of business development companies may trade at a market price that is less than the value of the net assets attributable to those shares. The possibility that our shares of common stock will trade at a discount from net asset value or at premiums that are unsustainable over the long term are separate and distinct from the risk that our net asset value will decrease. Since our initial public offering on February 9, 2010, our shares of common stock have traded at both a discount and a premium to the net assets attributable to those shares. As of March 25, 2014, our shares of common stock traded at a discount equal to approximately 1.7% of the net assets attributable to those shares based upon our net asset value as of December 31, 2013. It is not possible to predict whether the shares offered hereby will trade at, above, or below net asset value.

We intend to distribute quarterly dividends to our stockholders. Our quarterly dividends, if any, will be determined by our board of directors.

Table of Contents

The following table reflects the cash distributions, including dividends and returns of capital, if any, per share that we have declared on our common stock since our initial public offering:

Date Declared	Record Date	Payment Date	Amount
Fiscal 2014			
February 25, 2014	March 20, 2014	April 1, 2014	\$ 0.40
Fiscal 2013			
October 30, 2013	December 19, 2013	January 3, 2014	\$ 0.40
July 24, 2013	September 19, 2013	October 2, 2013	0.40
May 7, 2013	June 20, 2013	July 1, 2013	0.60
February 25, 2013	March 21, 2013	April 2, 2013	0.60
<i>Total 2013</i>			\$ 2.00
Fiscal 2012			
November 1, 2012	December 20, 2012	January 3, 2013	\$ 0.60
July 31, 2012	September 20, 2012	October 2, 2012	0.60
May 1, 2012	June 19, 2012	July 3, 2012	0.60
February 22, 2012	March 20, 2012	April 3, 2012	0.60
<i>Total 2012</i>			\$ 2.40
Fiscal 2011			
November 1, 2011	December 15, 2011	December 29, 2011	\$ 0.60
August 2, 2011	September 20, 2011	October 4, 2011	0.60
May 2, 2011	June 17, 2011	July 5, 2011	0.60
March 1, 2011	March 17, 2011	April 4, 2011	0.60
<i>Total 2011</i>			\$ 2.40
Fiscal 2010			
November 2, 2010	December 17, 2010	December 30, 2010	\$ 0.60
August 3, 2010	September 17, 2010	October 4, 2010	0.60
May 4, 2010	June 17, 2010	July 2, 2010	0.60
January 26, 2010	March 18, 2010	April 1, 2010	0.34*
<i>Total 2010</i>			\$ 2.14

* Partial period dividend of \$0.60 per share pro-rated for the number of days that remained in the quarter after our initial public offering.

Tax characteristics of all dividends will be reported to shareholders on Form 1099 after the end of the calendar year. Our quarterly dividends, if any, will be determined by our board of directors.

We have elected to be taxed as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code. To obtain and maintain our RIC status, we must distribute at least 90% of our ordinary income and realized net short-term capital gains in excess of realized net long-term capital losses, if any, out of the assets legally available for distribution. In addition, although we currently intend to distribute realized net capital gains (*i.e.*, net long-term capital gains in excess of short-term capital losses), if any, at least annually, out of the assets legally available for such distributions, we may in the future decide

to retain such capital gains for investment.

We maintain an opt out dividend reinvestment plan for our common stockholders. As a result, if we declare a dividend, then stockholders cash dividends will be automatically reinvested in additional shares of our common stock, unless they specifically opt out of the dividend reinvestment plan so as to receive cash dividends.

We may not be able to achieve operating results that will allow us to make dividends and distributions at a specific level or to increase the amount of these dividends and distributions from time to time. In addition, we

Table of Contents

may be limited in our ability to make dividends and distributions due to the asset coverage test for borrowings when applicable to us as a BDC under the 1940 Act and due to provisions in current and future credit facilities. If we do not distribute a certain percentage of our income annually, we will suffer adverse tax consequences, including possible loss of our RIC status. We cannot assure stockholders that they will receive any dividends and distributions or dividends and distributions at a particular level.

All dividends declared in cash payable to stockholders that are participants in our dividend reinvestment plan are generally automatically reinvested in shares of our common stock. As a result, stockholders that do not participate in the dividend reinvestment plan may experience dilution over time. Stockholders who do not elect to receive dividends in shares of common stock may experience accretion to the net asset value of their shares if our shares are trading at a premium and dilution if our shares are trading at a discount. The level of accretion or discount would depend on various factors, including the proportion of our stockholders who participate in the plan, the level of premium or discount at which our shares are trading and the amount of the dividend payable to a stockholder.

Table of Contents

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF
FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

The information contained in this section should be read in conjunction with the Selected Financial and Other Data and our Financial Statements and notes thereto appearing elsewhere in this prospectus.

Overview

Solar Capital LLC, a Maryland limited liability company, was formed in February 2007 and commenced operations on March 13, 2007 with initial capital of \$1.2 billion of which 47.04% was funded by affiliated parties.

Immediately prior to the initial public offering, through a series of transactions Solar Capital Ltd. merged with Solar Capital LLC, leaving Solar Capital Ltd. as the surviving entity. Solar Capital issued an aggregate of approximately 26.65 million shares of common stock and \$125 million in the Senior Unsecured Notes to the existing Solar Capital LLC unit holders in connection with the Solar Capital Merger. Solar Capital had no assets or operations prior to completion of the Solar Capital Merger and as a result, the historical books and records of Solar Capital LLC have become the books and records of the surviving entity. The number of shares used to calculate weighted average shares for use in computations on a per share basis have been decreased retroactively by a factor of approximately 0.4022 for all periods prior to February 9, 2010. This factor represents the effective impact of the reduction in shares resulting from the Solar Capital Merger. As of December 17, 2010, the Senior Unsecured Notes have been repaid from proceeds of a private placement transaction that we completed on November 30, 2010 and from borrowings under a credit facility established in December 2010.

Solar Capital, a Maryland corporation formed in November 2007, is a closed-end, externally managed, non-diversified management investment company that has elected to be treated as a BDC under the 1940 Act. Furthermore, as Solar Capital is an investment company, it continues to apply the guidance in FASB Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) Topic 946. In addition, for tax purposes the Company has elected to be treated as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code.

On February 9, 2010, we priced our initial public offering, selling 5.68 million shares of our common stock. Concurrent with our initial public offering, Michael S. Gross, our chairman and chief executive officer, and Bruce Spohler, our chief operating officer, collectively purchased an additional 0.6 million shares of our common stock through the Concurrent Private Placement.

We invest primarily in U.S. middle-market companies, where we believe the supply of primary capital is limited and the investment opportunities are most attractive. Our investment objective is to generate both current income and capital appreciation through debt and equity investments. We invest primarily in leveraged middle-market companies in the form of senior secured loans, mezzanine loans and equity securities. From time to time, we may also invest in public companies that are thinly traded. Our business is focused primarily on the direct origination of investments through portfolio companies or their financial sponsors. Our investments generally range between \$20 million and \$100 million each, although we expect that this investment size will vary proportionately with the size of our capital base. We are managed by Solar Capital Partners. Solar Capital Management provides the administrative services necessary for us to operate.

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

In addition, we may invest a portion of our portfolio in other types of investments, which we refer to as opportunistic investments, which are not our primary focus but are intended to enhance our overall returns. These investments may include, but are not limited to, direct investments in public companies that are not thinly traded and securities of leveraged companies located in select countries outside of the United States.

Table of Contents

As of December 31, 2013, our adviser Solar Capital Partners has invested approximately \$3.9 billion in more than 140 different portfolio companies since it was founded in 2006. Over the same period, Solar Capital Partners completed transactions with more than 100 different financial sponsors.

Recent Developments

On February 25, 2014, our Board declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.40 per share payable on April 1, 2014 to holders of record as of March 20, 2014.

The Company repurchased an additional 277,919 shares for \$6.1 million between January 1, 2014 and February 21, 2014. \$76.4 million remains available for future program purchases.

Investments

Our level of investment activity can and does vary substantially from period to period depending on many factors, including the amount of debt and equity capital available to middle market companies, the level of merger and acquisition activity for such companies, the general economic environment and the competitive environment for the types of investments we make. As a BDC, we must not acquire any assets other than qualifying assets specified in the 1940 Act unless, at the time the acquisition is made, at least 70% of our total assets are qualifying assets (with certain limited exceptions). Qualifying assets include investments in eligible portfolio companies. The definition of eligible portfolio company includes certain public companies that do not have any securities listed on a national securities exchange and companies whose securities are listed on a national securities exchange but whose market capitalization is less than \$250 million.

Revenue

We generate revenue primarily in the form of interest income from the securities we hold and capital gains, if any, on investment securities that we may sell. Our debt investments generally have a stated term of three to seven years and typically bear interest at a floating rate usually determined on the basis of a benchmark LIBOR, commercial paper rate, or the prime rate. Interest on our debt investments is generally payable quarterly but may be monthly or semi-annually. In addition, our investments may provide PIK interest. Such amounts of accrued PIK interest are added to the cost of the investment on the respective capitalization dates and generally become due at maturity of the investment or upon the investment being called by the issuer. We may also generate revenue in the form of commitment, origination, structuring fees, fees for providing managerial assistance and, if applicable, consulting fees, etc.

Expenses

All investment professionals of the Investment Adviser and their staff, when and to the extent engaged in providing investment advisory and management services to us, and the compensation and routine overhead expenses of that personnel which is allocable to those services are provided and paid for by Solar Capital Partners. We bear all other costs and expenses of our operations and transactions, including those relating

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

to:

investment advisory and management fees;

expenses incurred by Solar Capital Partners payable to third parties, including agents, consultants or other advisors, in monitoring our financial and legal affairs and in monitoring our investments and performing due diligence on our prospective portfolio companies;

calculation of our net asset value (including the cost and expenses of any independent valuation firm utilized);

direct costs and expenses of administration, including independent registered public accounting and legal costs;

Table of Contents

costs of preparing and filing reports or other documents with the SEC;

interest payable on debt, if any, incurred to finance our investments;

offerings of our common stock and other securities;

registration and listing fees;

fees payable to third parties, including agents, consultants or other advisors, relating to, or associated with, evaluating and making investments;

transfer agent and custodial fees;

taxes;

independent directors' fees and expenses;

marketing and distribution-related expenses;

the costs of any reports, proxy statements or other notices to stockholders, including printing and postage costs;

our allocable portion of the fidelity bond, directors and officers/errors and omissions liability insurance, and any other insurance premiums;

organizational costs; and

all other expenses incurred by us or the Administrator in connection with administering our business, such as our allocable portion of overhead under the administration agreement, including rent and our allocable portion of the cost of our chief financial officer and chief compliance officer and their respective staffs.

We expect our general and administrative operating expenses related to our ongoing operations to increase moderately in dollar terms. During periods of asset growth, we generally expect our general and administrative operating expenses to decline as a percentage of our total assets and increase during periods of asset declines. Incentive fees, interest expense and costs relating to future offerings of securities, among others, may also increase or reduce overall operating expenses based on portfolio performance, interest rate benchmarks, and offerings of our securities relative to comparative periods, among other factors.

Portfolio and Investment Activity

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

During the year ended December 31, 2013, we invested approximately \$330 million across 19 portfolio companies. This compares to investing approximately \$612 million in 17 portfolio companies for the previous fiscal year ended December 31, 2012. Investments sold or prepaid during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013 totaled approximately \$658 million versus approximately \$325 million for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012.

At December 31, 2013, our portfolio consisted of 40 portfolio companies and was invested 40.8% in senior secured loans, 23.4% in subordinated debt, 2.4% in preferred equity and 33.4% in common equity and warrants measured at fair value versus 40 portfolio companies invested 33.7% in senior secured loans, 32.0% in subordinated debt, 10.9% in preferred equity and 23.4% in common equity and warrants measured at fair value at December 31, 2012.

The weighted average yields on our portfolio of income producing investments were 11.3% and 14.2%, respectively, at December 31, 2013 and December 31, 2012, measured at fair value.

At December 31, 2013, 64.5% or \$663.8 million of our income-producing investment portfolio* is floating rate and 35.5% or \$366.0 million is fixed rate, measured at fair value. At December 31, 2012, 40.0% or \$537.6 million of our income-producing investment portfolio* was floating rate and 60.0% or \$806.0 million was fixed rate, measured at fair value. As of December 31, 2013 and 2012, we had no issuers on non-accrual status.

* We have included Crystal Capital Financial Holdings LLC as 100% floating rate.

Table of Contents

Since inception, Solar Capital Ltd. and its predecessor companies have invested approximately \$3.3 billion in 99 portfolio companies. Over the same period, Solar Capital Ltd. has completed transactions with more than 75 different financial sponsors.

Crystal Capital Financial Holdings LLC

On December 28, 2012, we completed the acquisition of Crystal Capital Financial Holdings LLC (Crystal Financial), a commercial finance company focused on providing asset-based and other secured financing solutions, from SSP Energy Ltd., Quartz Managers LLC and Quantum Strategic Partners Ltd. (the Crystal Acquisition) pursuant to a definitive agreement entered into on December 17, 2012. We invested \$275 million in cash to effect the Crystal Acquisition. Crystal Financial owns approximately 98% of the outstanding ownership interest in Crystal Financial LLC. The remaining financial interest is held by various employees of Crystal Financial LLC, through their investment in Crystal Management LP. Crystal Financial had a diversified portfolio of 23 loans having a total par value of approximately \$400 million at November 30, 2012 and a \$275 million committed revolving credit facility.

As of December 31, 2013, Crystal Financial had 27 funded commitments to 23 different borrowers with a total par value of approximately \$465.5 million. All loans were floating rate with the largest loan outstanding totaling \$50.0 million. The average exposure per issuer was \$20.2 million and none of the loans were on non-accrual status. Crystal Financial 's credit facility, which is non-recourse to Solar Capital, had approximately \$200.4 million of borrowings outstanding. On November 18, 2013, Crystal Financial 's credit facility was amended, extending the maturity date to November 17, 2017 and reducing the weighted average borrowing cost by more than 0.75%. Additionally, the unused fee was reduced. For the year ended December 31, 2013, Crystal Financial had net income of \$28.1 million on gross income of \$54.0 million. Due to the timing of non-cash items, there may be material differences between GAAP net income and cash distributions available to shareholders.

Stock Repurchase Program

On July 31, 2013, the Company 's board of directors authorized a program for the purpose of repurchasing up to \$100 million of the Company 's common stock. Under the repurchase program, the Company may, but is not obligated to, repurchase its outstanding common stock in the open market from time to time provided that the Company complies with the prohibitions under its Insider Trading Policies and Procedures and the guidelines specified in Rule 10b-18 and 10b-5 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, including certain price, market volume and timing constraints. On December 5, 2013, the Company 's board of directors extended the repurchase program to be in place until the earlier of July 31, 2014 or until \$100 million of the Company 's outstanding shares of common stock have been repurchased. During the year ended December 31, 2013, the Company repurchased 796,418 shares at an average price of approximately \$21.98 per share, inclusive of commissions. This represents a discount of approximately 2.3% of the net asset value per share at December 31, 2013. The total dollar amount of shares repurchased in this period is \$17.5 million, leaving a maximum of \$82.5 million available for future program purchases.

Critical Accounting Policies

The preparation of consolidated financial statements and related disclosures in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements, and revenues and expenses during the periods reported. Actual results could materially differ from those estimates. We have identified the following items as critical accounting policies.

Table of Contents

Valuation of Portfolio Investments

We conduct the valuation of our assets, pursuant to which our net asset value is determined, at all times consistent with GAAP, and the 1940 Act. Our valuation procedures are set forth in more detail below:

Under procedures established by our board of directors (the Board), we value investments, including certain senior secured debt, subordinated debt and other debt securities with maturities greater than 60 days, for which market quotations are readily available, at such market quotations (unless they are deemed not to represent fair value). We attempt to obtain market quotations from at least two brokers or dealers (if available, otherwise from a principal market maker or a primary market dealer or other independent pricing service). We utilize mid-market pricing as a practical expedient for fair value unless a different point within the range is more representative. If and when market quotations are deemed not to represent fair value, we typically utilize independent third party valuation firms to assist us in determining fair value. Accordingly, such investments go through our multi-step valuation process as described below. In each case, our independent valuation firms consider observable market inputs together with significant unobservable inputs in arriving at their valuation recommendations. Debt investments with remaining maturities of 60 days or less shall each be valued at cost with interest accrued or discount amortized to the date of maturity, unless such valuation, in the judgment of the Investment Adviser, does not represent fair value, in which case such investments shall be valued at fair value as determined in good faith by or under the direction of our Board. Investments that are not publicly traded or whose market quotations are not readily available are valued at fair value as determined in good faith by or under the direction of our Board. Such determination of fair values involves subjective judgments and estimates.

With respect to investments for which market quotations are not readily available or when such market quotations are deemed not to represent fair value, our Board has approved a multi-step valuation process each quarter, as described below:

- (1) our quarterly valuation process begins with each portfolio company or investment being initially valued by the investment professionals of the Investment Adviser responsible for the portfolio investment;
- (2) preliminary valuation conclusions are then documented and discussed with senior management of the Investment Adviser;
- (3) independent valuation firms engaged by our Board conduct independent appraisals and review the Investment Adviser's preliminary valuations and make their own independent assessment;
- (4) the audit committee of the Board reviews the preliminary valuation of the Investment Adviser and that of the independent valuation firm and responds to the valuation recommendation of the independent valuation firm to reflect any comments; and
- (5) the Board discusses valuations and determines the fair value of each investment in our portfolio in good faith based on the input of the Investment Adviser, the respective independent valuation firm and the audit committee.

Investments in all asset classes are valued utilizing a market approach, an income approach, or both approaches, as appropriate. The market approach uses prices and other relevant information generated by market transactions involving identical or comparable assets or liabilities (including a business). The income approach uses valuation techniques to convert future amounts (for example, cash flows or earnings) to a single present amount (discounted). The measurement is based on the value indicated by current market expectations about those future amounts. In following these approaches, the types of factors that we may take into account in fair value pricing our investments include, as relevant: available current market data, including relevant and applicable market trading and transaction comparables, applicable market yields and multiples, security covenants, call protection provisions, the nature and realizable value of any collateral, the portfolio company's ability to make payments, its earnings and discounted cash flows, the markets in which the portfolio company does business, comparisons of financial

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

ratios of peer companies that are public, M&A comparables, our principal market (as the reporting entity) and enterprise values, among other factors. When available, broker

Table of Contents

quotations and/or quotations provided by pricing services are considered as an input in the valuation process. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013, there has been no change to the Company's valuation techniques and the nature of the related inputs considered in the valuation process.

Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) Topic 820 classifies the inputs used to measure these fair values into the following hierarchy:

Level 1: Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities, accessible by the Company at the measurement date.

Level 2: Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets, or quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active, or other observable inputs other than quoted prices.

Level 3: Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

In all cases, the level in the fair value hierarchy within which the fair value measurement in its entirety falls is determined based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Our assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement in its entirety requires judgment and considers factors specific to each investment.

Determination of fair value involves subjective judgments and estimates. Accordingly, the notes to our consolidated financial statements express the uncertainty with respect to the possible effect of such valuations, and any change in such valuations, on our consolidated financial statements.

Valuation of Senior Secured Credit Facility and Senior Secured Notes

The Company has made an irrevocable election to apply the fair value option of accounting to its Credit Facility and its Senior Secured Notes, in accordance with ASC 825-10. We believe accounting for the Credit Facility and Senior Secured Notes at fair value will better align the measurement methodologies of assets and liabilities, which may mitigate certain earnings volatility. As a result of this election, approximately \$5.0 million of costs related solely to the establishment of the Credit Facility and Senior Secured Notes were expensed during the year ended December 31, 2012, rather than being deferred and amortized over their stated or expected life. Concurrent with the election, the Company also accelerated approximately \$2.3 million of unamortized costs from the prior Citibank led credit facility. In addition, the Company recognized \$1.7 million in costs related to the Credit Facility amendment in July 2013 which reduced the interest rate and extended the maturity as well as with the accordion execution in December 2013.

Revenue Recognition

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

The Company records dividend income and interest, adjusted for amortization of premium and accretion of discount, on an accrual basis. Investments that are expected to pay regularly scheduled interest and/or dividends in cash are generally placed on non-accrual status when principal or interest/dividend cash payments are past due 30 days or more and/or when it is no longer probable that principal or interest/dividend cash payments will be collected. Such non-accrual investments are restored to accrual status if past due principal and interest or dividends are paid in cash, and in management's judgment, are likely to continue timely payment of their remaining interest or dividend obligations. Interest or dividend cash payments received on designated investments may be recognized as income or applied to principal depending upon management's judgment. Some of our investments may have contractual PIK interest or dividends. PIK interest and dividends computed at the contractual rate is accrued into income and reflected as receivable up to the capitalization date. PIK investments offer issuers the option at each payment date of making payments in cash or in additional securities. When additional securities are received, they typically have the same terms, including maturity dates and interest rates as the original securities issued. On these payment dates, the Company capitalizes the accrued interest or dividends receivable (reflecting such amounts as the basis in the additional securities received). PIK generally becomes due at the maturity of the investment or upon the investment being called by the issuer. At the point the

Table of Contents

Company believes PIK is not expected to be realized, the PIK investment will be placed on non-accrual status. When a PIK investment is placed on non-accrual status, the accrued, uncapitalized interest or dividends is reversed from the related receivable through interest or dividend income, respectively. The Company does not reverse previously capitalized PIK interest or dividends. Upon capitalization, PIK is subject to the fair value estimates associated with their related investments. PIK investments on non-accrual status are restored to accrual status if the Company again believes that PIK is expected to be realized. Loan origination fees, original issue discount, and market discounts are capitalized and amortized into income using the interest method or straight-line, as applicable. Upon the prepayment of a loan, any unamortized loan origination fees are recorded as interest income. We record prepayment premiums on loans and other investments as interest income when we receive such amounts. Capital structuring fees are recorded as other income when earned.

Net Realized Gain or Loss and Net Change in Unrealized Gain or Loss

We generally measure realized gain or loss by the difference between the net proceeds from the repayment or sale and the amortized cost basis of the investment, without regard to unrealized appreciation or depreciation previously recognized, but considering unamortized origination or commitment fees and prepayment penalties. The net change in unrealized gain or loss reflects the change in portfolio investment values during the reporting period, including the reversal of previously recorded unrealized gain or loss, when gains or losses are realized.

Within the context of these critical accounting policies, we are not currently aware of any reasonably likely events or circumstances that would result in materially different amounts being reported.

Income Taxes

Solar Capital Ltd., a U.S. corporation, has elected to be treated as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code, as amended. In order to qualify as a RIC, among other things, the Company is required to timely distribute to its stockholders at least 90% of investment company taxable income, as defined by the Code, for each year. Depending on the level of taxable income earned in a given tax year, we may choose to carry forward taxable income in excess of current year dividend distributions into the next tax year and pay a 4% excise tax on such income, as required. To the extent that the Company determines that its estimated current year annual taxable income will be in excess of estimated current year dividend distributions, the Company accrues an estimated excise tax, if any, on estimated excess taxable income.

We are also subject to taxes in Luxembourg, through Solar Capital Luxembourg I S.a.r.l., a wholly-owned subsidiary. Under the laws of Luxembourg, we pay a corporate income tax and a municipal business tax on our subsidiary's taxable income.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In June 2013, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update 2013-08, Financial Services - Investment Companies (Topic 946): Amendments to the Scope, Measurement, and Disclosure Requirements. The update amends the criteria that define an investment company, requires additional disclosures, and seeks to clarify the measurement guidance. Public companies are required to apply ASU 2013-08 prospectively for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2013. Accordingly, the Company has evaluated the impact of the adoption of ASU 2013-08 on its financial statements and disclosures and determined the adoption of ASU 2013-08 will not have a material effect on the Company's financial condition and results of operations.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Results comparisons are for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2013, December 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011.

Table of Contents

Investment Income

For the fiscal years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011, gross investment income totaled \$163.6 million, \$153.3 million and \$138.9 million, respectively. The increase in gross investment income from 2012 to 2013 was primarily due to an increase in income from our investment in Crystal Capital Financial Holdings LLC, offset by modest portfolio yield compression and the net effect of portfolio repayments. The increase in gross investment income from 2011 to 2012 was primarily due to an increase in the average size of the income-producing portfolio as compared to the previous fiscal year.

Expenses

Expenses totaled \$78.7 million, \$71.3 million and \$57.0 million, respectively, for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011, of which \$48.0 million, \$44.1 million and \$41.1 million, respectively, were base management fees and performance-based incentive fees and \$20.1 million, \$19.1 million and \$9.2 million, respectively, were interest and other debt related expenses. Administrative services and other general and administrative expenses totaled \$10.2 million, \$7.8 million and \$6.0 million, respectively, for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011. Operating expenses generally consist of base management and performance-based incentive fees, administrative services fees, insurance expenses, legal fees, directors' fees, transfer agency fees, printing and proxy expenses, audit and tax services expenses, and other general and administrative expenses. The increase in expenses from 2012 to 2013 was primarily due to an increase in management and performance-based incentive fees on higher investment income year over year and portfolio size, increases in debt expenses due to our Unsecured Notes outstanding for the full fiscal year, from the retirement of a revolving credit facility with Wells Fargo and the amendment of our Credit Facility, which lowered our interest rate and extended the maturity two years, as well as additional general and administrative expenses. The increase in expenses from 2011 to 2012 was primarily due to an increase in interest and other debt related expenses, including \$7.3 million in expenses related to the acceleration of unamortized interest expense that was amortizing ratably on a previously existing revolving credit facility as well as fully expensing the costs related to establishing a new and expanded credit facility and the interest related expenses from issuing our Senior Secured Notes during 2012. Accrued excise tax expenses totaled \$0.4 million, \$0.3 million, and \$0.9 million for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011.

Net Investment Income

The Company's net investment income totaled \$84.9 million, \$81.9 million and \$81.9 million, or \$1.91, \$2.20, and \$2.25, on a per average share basis, respectively, for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011.

Net Realized Loss

The Company had investment sales and prepayments totaling approximately \$658 million, \$325 million and \$338 million, respectively, for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011. Net realized losses for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011 were \$44.4 million, \$32.5 million and \$2.2 million, respectively. Net realized losses for fiscal 2013 were primarily related to the restructuring of our investment in Rug Doctor and the exit of our investment in DSW Group, Inc. Net realized losses incurred during fiscal year 2012 were primarily related to the restructuring of our investment in DSW Group, Inc. which reversed out previously recognized unrealized depreciation as well as the realization of previously recognized unrealized foreign exchange losses on our GBP denominated investment in Weetabix Group that was repaid in full at par during the fiscal year. As our foreign exchange risk was generally hedged, foreign currency gains were realized in prior periods. Net realized losses for fiscal 2011 were also related primarily to derivatives and foreign exchange losses whose realized gains were recognized in prior periods.

Net Change in Unrealized Gain (Loss)

For the fiscal years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011, net change in unrealized gain (loss) on the Company's assets and liabilities totaled \$34.8 million, \$66.4 million, and (\$18.2) million, respectively. Fiscal

Table of Contents

2013's net unrealized appreciation is due primarily to market improvements in our investments in Crystal Capital Financial Holdings LLC and Nuveen Investments, Inc., as well as the reversal of unrealized depreciation on our investment in Rug Doctor. Partially offsetting the positive change in unrealized for 2013, was net unrealized depreciation in our investments in Ark Real Estate. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012, net appreciation was driven by general market improvements, modest yield tightening as well as the reversal of unrealized depreciation on our investment in DSW Group, Inc. as the investment restructured during fiscal 2012. Net unrealized depreciation for fiscal 2011 was derived primarily from our investments in DSW Group, Inc., NXP Semiconductors, Netherlands B.V., and Grakon Holdings LLC.

Net Increase in Net Assets From Operations

For the fiscal years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011, the Company had a net increase in net assets resulting from operations of \$75.3 million, \$115.8 million and \$61.3 million, respectively. For the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011, earnings per average share were \$1.69, \$3.11 and \$1.68, respectively.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

The Company's liquidity and capital resources are generated and generally available through its Credit Facility maturing in June 2018, through cash flows from operations, investment sales, prepayments of senior and subordinated loans, income earned on investments and cash equivalents, and periodic follow-on equity and/or debt offerings. As of December 31, 2013, we had a total of \$490.0 million of unused borrowing capacity under our Credit Facility, subject to borrowing base limits.

We may from time to time issue equity and/or debt securities in either public or private offerings. The issuance of such securities will depend on future market conditions, funding needs and other factors and there can be no assurance that any such issuance will occur or be successful. The primary uses of existing funds and any funds raised in the future is expected to be for investments in portfolio companies, repayment of indebtedness, cash distributions to our shareholders, or for other general corporate purposes.

On January 11, 2013, the Company closed its most recent follow-on public equity offering of 6.3 million shares of common stock at \$24.40 per share raising approximately \$146.9 million in net proceeds. The primary uses of the funds raised were for investments in portfolio companies, reductions in revolving debt outstanding and for other general corporate purposes.

On November 16, 2012, we issued \$100 million in aggregate principal amount of the Unsecured Notes for net proceeds of \$96.9 million. Interest on the Unsecured Notes is paid quarterly on February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15, at a rate of 6.75% per year, commencing on February 15, 2013. The Unsecured Notes mature on November 15, 2042. The Company may redeem the Unsecured Notes in whole or in part at any time or from time to time on or after November 15, 2017.

On August 23, 2012, the Company closed a follow-on public equity offering of 2.0 million shares of common stock at \$22.51 per share raising approximately \$45 million in proceeds. In the future, the Company may raise additional equity or debt capital, among other considerations.

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

On May 10, 2012, the Company closed a private offering of \$75 million of Senior Secured Notes with a fixed interest rate of 5.875% and a maturity date of May 10, 2017. Interest on the Senior Secured Notes is due semi-annually on May 10 and November 10. The Senior Secured Notes were issued in a private placement only to qualified institutional buyers pursuant to Rule 144A under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

The primary uses of existing funds and any funds raised in the future is expected to be for repayment of indebtedness, investments in portfolio companies, cash distributions to our shareholders or for other general corporate purposes.

Table of Contents

Cash Equivalents

We deem certain U.S. Treasury bills, repurchase agreements and other high-quality, short-term debt securities as cash equivalents. From time to time, including at the end of each fiscal quarter, we consider using various treasury strategies for our business. One strategy includes taking proactive steps by utilizing cash equivalents with the objective of enhancing our investment flexibility during the following quarter pursuant to Section 55 of the 1940 Act. More specifically, we may purchase U.S. Treasury bills from time-to-time on the last business day of the quarter and typically close out that position on the following business day, settling the sale transaction on a net cash basis with the purchase, subsequent to quarter end. We may also utilize repurchase agreements or other balance sheet transactions, including drawing down on our credit facilities, as deemed appropriate. The amount of these transactions or such drawn cash for this purpose is excluded from total assets for purposes of computing the asset base upon which the management fee is determined. We held \$450 million in cash equivalents as of December 31, 2013.

Debt

Unsecured Senior Notes

On November 16, 2012, the Company and U.S. Bank National Association entered into an Indenture and a First Supplemental Indenture relating to the Company's issuance, offer and sale of \$100 million aggregate principal amount of its Unsecured Notes. The Unsecured Notes will mature on November 15, 2042 and may be redeemed in whole or in part at the Company's option at any time or from time to time on or after November 15, 2017 at a redemption price of \$25 per security plus accrued and unpaid interest. The Unsecured Notes bear interest at a rate of 6.75% per year payable quarterly on February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15 of each year, commencing on February 15, 2013. The Unsecured Notes are direct senior unsecured obligations of the Company.

Revolving & Term Loan Facility

In July 2013, the Company amended its Credit Facility, composed of \$440 million of revolving credit and \$50 million in term loans. Subsequently, in December 2013, a commitment increase was executed providing an additional \$50 million of revolving credit, bringing the total revolving credit capacity to \$490 million. Borrowings generally bear interest at a rate per annum equal to the base rate plus 2.25% or the alternate base rate plus 1.25%. The Credit Facility has no LIBOR floor requirement. The Credit Facility matures in June 2018 and includes ratable amortization in the final year. The Credit Facility may be increased up to \$800 million with additional new lenders or an increase in commitments from current lenders. The Credit Facility contains certain customary affirmative and negative covenants and events of default. In addition, the Credit Facility contains certain financial covenants that among other things, requires the Company to maintain a minimum shareholder's equity and a minimum asset coverage ratio. The Company also pays issuers of funded term loans quarterly in arrears a commitment fee at the rate of 0.25% per annum on the average daily outstanding balance. In conjunction with the establishment of the Credit Facility, the predecessor facility and a term loan were retired, resulting in \$2.3 million of non-recurring charges to expense unamortized costs in the year ended December 31, 2012. Expenses associated with the July 2013 amendment of the Credit Facility, the retirement of our \$100 million revolving credit facility with Wells Fargo Securities, LLC as well as the subsequent December 2013 commitment increase totaled \$2.5 million. At December 31, 2013, total outstanding USD equivalent borrowings under the Credit Facility were the \$50 million in term loans.

Senior Secured Notes

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

On May 10, 2012, the Company closed a private offering of \$75 million of Senior Secured Notes with a fixed interest rate of 5.875% and a maturity date of May 10, 2017. Interest on the Senior Secured Notes is due semi-annually on May 10 and November 10. The Senior Secured Notes were issued in a private placement only to qualified institutional buyers pursuant to Rule 144A under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

Table of Contents

Certain covenants on our issued debt may restrict our business activities, including limitations that could hinder our ability to finance additional loans and investments or to make the distributions required to maintain our status as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code. At December 31, 2013, the Company was in compliance with all financial and operational covenants required by the Credit Facilities.

Contractual Obligations

A summary of our significant contractual payment obligations is as follows as of December 31, 2013:

Payments Due by Period

(in millions)	Total	Less than 1 Year	1-3 Years	3-5 Years	More Than 5 Years
Revolving credit facility(1)	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Unsecured senior notes	100.0				100.0
Senior secured notes	75.0			75.0	
Term Loans	50.0			50.0	

- (1) As of December 31, 2013, we had a total of \$490.0 million of unused borrowing capacity under our revolving credit facilities, subject to borrowing base limits.

Information about our senior securities is shown in the following table as of each year ended December 31 since the Company commenced operations, unless otherwise noted. The indicates information which the SEC expressly does not require to be disclosed for certain types of senior securities.

Class and Year	Total Amount Outstanding(1)	Asset Coverage Per Unit(2)	Involuntary Liquidating Preference Per Unit(3)	Average Market Value Per Unit(4)
Revolving Credit Facilities				
Fiscal 2013	\$	\$		N/A
Fiscal 2012	264,452	1,510		N/A
Fiscal 2011	201,355	3,757		N/A
Fiscal 2010	400,000	2,668		N/A
Fiscal 2009	88,114	8,920		N/A
Unsecured Senior Notes				
Fiscal 2013	\$ 100,000	\$ 2,411		\$ 934
Fiscal 2012	100,000	571		923
Senior Secured Notes				
Fiscal 2013	\$ 75,000	\$ 1,808		N/A
Fiscal 2012	75,000	428		N/A
Term Loans				
Fiscal 2013	\$ 50,000	\$ 1,206		N/A
Fiscal 2012	50,000	285		N/A
Fiscal 2011	35,000	653		N/A

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

Fiscal 2010	35,000	233	N/A
-------------	--------	-----	-----

- (1) Total amount of each class of senior securities outstanding at the end of the period presented in thousands.
- (2) The asset coverage ratio for a class of senior securities representing indebtedness is calculated as our consolidated total assets, less all liabilities and indebtedness not represented by senior securities, divided by all senior securities representing indebtedness. This asset coverage ratio is multiplied by one thousand to determine the Asset Coverage Per Unit. In order to determine the specific Asset Coverage Per Unit for each class of debt, the total Asset Coverage Per Unit is allocated based on the amount outstanding in each class of debt at the end of the period.

Table of Contents

- (3) The amount to which such class of senior security would be entitled upon the involuntary liquidation of the issuer in preference to any security junior to it.
- (4) Not applicable except for the Unsecured Senior Notes which are publicly traded. The Average Market Value Per Unit is calculated by taking the daily average closing price during the period and dividing it by twenty-five dollars per share and multiplying the result by one thousand to determine a unit price per thousand consistent with Asset Coverage Per Unit.

We have also entered into two contracts under which we have future commitments: the Investment Advisory and Management Agreement, pursuant to which Solar Capital Partners has agreed to serve as our investment adviser, and the Administration Agreement, pursuant to which Solar Capital Management has agreed to furnish us with the facilities and administrative services necessary to conduct our day-to-day operations and provide on our behalf managerial assistance to those portfolio companies to which we are required to provide such assistance. Payments under the Investment Advisory and Management Agreement are equal to (1) a percentage of the value of our average gross assets and (2) a two-part incentive fee. Payments under the Administration Agreement are equal to an amount based upon our allocable portion of Solar Capital Management's overhead in performing its obligations under the Administration Agreement, including rent, technology systems, insurance and our allocable portion of the costs of our chief financial officer and chief compliance officer and their respective staffs. Either party may terminate each of the investment advisory and management agreement and administration agreement without penalty upon 60 days' written notice to the other. See note 3 to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

On December 19, 2013, we entered into a commitment to fund a delayed draw term loan in Tecomet, Inc. in the amount of \$15.0 million. As of December 31, 2013, this delayed draw term loan remained unfunded.

In the normal course of its business, we trade various financial instruments and may enter into various investment activities with off-balance sheet risk, which include forward foreign currency contracts. Generally, these financial instruments represent future commitments to purchase or sell other financial instruments at specific terms at future dates. These financial instruments contain varying degrees of off-balance sheet risk whereby changes in the market value or our satisfaction of the obligations may exceed the amount recognized in our Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Table of Contents***Dividends and Distributions***

The following table reflects the cash dividends and distributions per share on our common stock since our initial public offering:

Date Declared	Record Date	Payment Date	Amount
Fiscal 2014			
February 25, 2014	March 20, 2014	April 1, 2014	\$ 0.40
Fiscal 2013			
October 30, 2013	December 19, 2013	January 3, 2014	\$ 0.40
July 24, 2013	September 19, 2013	October 2, 2013	0.40
May 7, 2013	June 20, 2013	July 1, 2013	0.60
February 25, 2013	March 21, 2013	April 2, 2013	0.60
<i>Total 2013</i>			\$ 2.00
Fiscal 2012			
November 1, 2012	December 20, 2012	January 3, 2013	\$ 0.60
July 31, 2012	September 20, 2012	October 2, 2012	0.60
May 1, 2012	June 19, 2012	July 3, 2012	0.60
February 22, 2012	March 20, 2012	April 3, 2012	0.60
<i>Total 2012</i>			\$ 2.40
Fiscal 2011			
November 1, 2011	December 15, 2011	December 29, 2011	\$ 0.60
August 2, 2011	September 20, 2011	October 4, 2011	0.60
May 2, 2011	June 17, 2011	July 5, 2011	0.60
March 1, 2011	March 17, 2011	April 4, 2011	0.60
<i>Total 2011</i>			\$ 2.40
Fiscal 2010			
November 2, 2010	December 17, 2010	December 30, 2010	\$ 0.60
August 3, 2010	September 17, 2010	October 4, 2010	0.60
May 4, 2010	June 17, 2010	July 2, 2010	0.60
January 26, 2010	March 18, 2010	April 1, 2010	0.34*
<i>Total 2010</i>			\$ 2.14

* Partial period dividend of \$0.60 per share pro-rated for the number of days that remained in the quarter after our initial public offering.

Tax characteristics of all dividends will be reported to shareholders on Form 1099 after the end of the calendar year. Future quarterly dividends, if any, will be determined by our Board. We expect that our dividends and distributions to stockholders will generally be from accumulated net investment income and from net realized capital gains, if any, as applicable.

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

We have elected to be taxed as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code. To maintain our RIC status, we must distribute at least 90% of our ordinary income and realized net short-term capital gains in excess of realized net long-term capital losses, if any, out of the assets legally available for distribution. In addition, although we currently intend to distribute realized net capital gains (*i.e.*, net long-term capital gains in excess of short-term capital losses), if any, at least annually, out of the assets legally available for such distributions, we may in the future decide to retain such capital gains for investment.

We maintain an opt out dividend reinvestment plan for our common stockholders. As a result, if we declare a dividend, then stockholders' cash dividends will be automatically reinvested in additional shares of our common stock, unless they specifically opt out of the dividend reinvestment plan so as to receive cash dividends.

Table of Contents

We may not be able to achieve operating results that will allow us to make distributions at a specific level or to increase the amount of these distributions from time to time. In addition, due to the asset coverage test applicable to us as a business development company, we may in the future be limited in our ability to make distributions. Also, our revolving credit facility may limit our ability to declare dividends if we default under certain provisions. If we do not distribute a certain percentage of our income annually, we will suffer adverse tax consequences, including possible loss of the tax benefits available to us as a regulated investment company. In addition, in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and tax regulations, we include in income certain amounts that we have not yet received in cash, such as contractual payment-in-kind interest, which represents contractual interest added to the loan balance that becomes due at the end of the loan term, or the accrual of original issue or market discount. Since we may recognize income before or without receiving cash representing such income, we may have difficulty meeting the requirement to distribute at least 90% of our investment company taxable income to obtain tax benefits as a regulated investment company.

With respect to the dividends to stockholders, income from origination, structuring, closing, commitment and certain other upfront fees associated with investments in portfolio companies are treated as taxable income and accordingly, distributed to stockholders.

Related Parties

We have entered into a number of business relationships with affiliated or related parties, including the following:

We have entered into an Investment Advisory and Management Agreement with Solar Capital Partners. Mr. Gross, our chairman and chief executive officer, is a managing member and a senior investment professional of, and has financial and controlling interests in, Solar Capital Partners. In addition, Mr. Spohler, our chief operating officer is a managing member and a senior investment professional of, and has financial interests in, Solar Capital Partners.

Solar Capital Management provides us with the office facilities and administrative services necessary to conduct day-to-day operations pursuant to our Administration Agreement. We reimburse Solar Capital Management for the allocable portion of overhead and other expenses incurred by it in performing its obligations under the Administration Agreement, including rent, the fees and expenses associated with performing compliance functions, and the compensation of our chief compliance officer, our chief financial officer and any administrative support staff. Solar Capital Partners, our investment adviser, is the sole member of and controls Solar Capital Management.

We have entered into a license agreement with Solar Capital Partners, pursuant to which Solar Capital Partners has granted us a non-exclusive, royalty-free license to use the name Solar Capital.

Solar Capital Partners and its affiliates may also manage other funds in the future that may have investment mandates that are similar, in whole and in part, with ours. For example, Solar Capital Partners presently serves as investment adviser to Solar Senior Capital Ltd., a publicly traded BDC, which focuses on investing primarily in senior secured loans, including first lien, uni-tranche and second lien debt instruments. In addition, Michael S. Gross, our chairman and chief executive officer, Bruce Spohler, our chief operating officer, and Richard L. Peteka, our chief financial officer, serve in similar capacities for Solar Senior Capital Ltd. Solar Capital Partners and its affiliates may determine that an investment is appropriate for us and for one or more of those other funds. In such event, depending on the availability of such investment and other appropriate factors, Solar Capital Partners or its affiliates may determine that we should invest side-by-side with one or more other funds. Any such investments will be made only to the extent permitted by applicable law and interpretive positions of the SEC and its staff, and consistent with Solar Capital Partners' allocation procedures.

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

In addition, we have adopted a formal code of ethics that governs the conduct of our officers and directors. Our officers and directors also remain subject to the duties imposed by both the 1940 Act and the Maryland General Corporation Law.

Table of Contents**SENIOR SECURITIES**

Information about our senior securities is shown in the following tables as of December 31, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010 and 2009. The report of our independent registered public accounting firm on the senior securities table as of December 31, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010 and 2009 is attached as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

Class and Year	Total Amount Outstanding Exclusive of Treasury Securities(1) (in thousands)	Asset Coverage Per Unit(2)	Involuntary Liquidation Preference Per Unit(3)	Average Market Value Per Unit(4)
Revolving Credit Facilities				
Fiscal 2013	\$	\$		N/A
Fiscal 2012	264,452	1,510		N/A
Fiscal 2011	201,355	3,757		N/A
Fiscal 2010	400,000	2,668		N/A
Fiscal 2009	88,114	8,920		N/A
Unsecured Notes				
Fiscal 2013	\$ 100,000	\$ 2,411		\$ 934
Fiscal 2012	100,000	571		923
Senior Secured Notes				
Fiscal 2013	\$ 75,000	\$ 1,808		N/A
Fiscal 2012	75,000	428		N/A
Term Loans				
Fiscal 2013	\$ 50,000	\$ 1,206		N/A
Fiscal 2012	50,000	285		N/A
Fiscal 2011	35,000	653		N/A
Fiscal 2010	35,000	233		N/A

- (1) Total amount of each class of senior securities outstanding at the end of the period presented.
- (2) The asset coverage ratio for a class of senior securities representing indebtedness is calculated as our consolidated total assets, less all liabilities and indebtedness not represented by senior securities, divided by all senior securities representing indebtedness. This asset coverage ratio is multiplied by \$1,000 to determine the Asset Coverage Per Unit. In order to determine the specific Asset Coverage Per Unit for each class of debt, the total Asset Coverage Per Unit is allocated based on the amount outstanding in each class of debt at the end of the period.
- (3) The amount to which such class of senior security would be entitled upon the voluntary liquidation of the issuer in preference to any security junior to it. The "N/A" in this column indicates that the Securities and Exchange Commission expressly does not require this information to be disclosed for certain types of senior securities.
- (4) Not applicable except for the Unsecured Notes which are publicly traded. The Average Market Value Per Unit is calculated by taking the daily average closing price during the period and dividing it by twenty-five dollars per share and multiplying the result by one thousand to determine a unit price per thousand consistent with Asset Coverage Per Unit.

Table of Contents

BUSINESS

Solar Capital

Solar Capital Ltd., a Maryland corporation formed in November 2007, is a closed-end, externally managed, non-diversified management investment company that has elected to be treated as a BDC under the 1940 Act. In addition, for tax purposes we have elected to be treated as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code.

On February 9, 2010 we priced our initial public offering, selling 5.68 million shares of our common stock. Concurrent with our initial public offering, management purchased an additional 0.6 million shares of our common stock through the Concurrent Private Placement. Solar Capital Ltd. issued an aggregate of approximately 26.65 million shares of common stock and \$125 million in Senior Unsecured Notes to the existing Solar Capital LLC unit holders in connection with the Solar Capital Merger. Solar Capital Ltd. had no assets or operations prior to completion of the Solar Capital Merger and as a result, the books and records of Solar Capital LLC have become the books and records of the surviving entity. As of December 17, 2010, the Senior Unsecured Notes have been repaid from proceeds of a private placement transaction that we completed on November 30, 2010 and from borrowings under our credit facility established in December 2010.

We invest primarily in U.S. middle market companies, where we believe the supply of primary capital is limited and the investment opportunities are most attractive. Our investment objective is to generate both current income and capital appreciation through debt and equity investments. We invest primarily in leveraged middle market companies in the form of senior secured loans, mezzanine loans and equity securities. From time to time, we may also invest in public companies that are thinly traded. Our business model is focused primarily on the direct origination of investments through portfolio companies or their financial sponsors. Our investments generally range between \$20 million and \$100 million each, although we expect that this investment size will vary proportionately with the size of our capital base.

In addition, we may invest a portion of our portfolio in other types of investments, which we refer to as opportunistic investments, which are not our primary focus but are intended to enhance our overall returns. These investments may include, but are not limited to, direct investments in public companies that are not thinly traded and securities of leveraged companies located in select countries outside of the United States. The securities that we invest in are typically rated below investment grade. Securities rated below investment grade are often referred to as leveraged loans, high yield or junk securities, and may be considered high risk compared to debt instruments that are rated investment grade. In addition, some of our debt investments will not fully amortize during their lifetime, which could result in a loss or a substantial amount of unpaid principal and interest due upon maturity. We are managed by Solar Capital Partners. Solar Capital Management provides the administrative services necessary for us to operate.

As of December 31, 2013, our investment portfolio totaled \$1.1 billion and our net asset value was \$995.6 million. Our portfolio was comprised of debt and equity investments in 40 portfolio companies with our portfolio of income producing investments having a weighted average annualized yield on a fair value basis of approximately 11.3%.

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013, we originated approximately \$330 million of investments in 19 portfolio companies. Investments sold or prepaid during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013 totaled approximately \$658 million.

About Solar Capital Partners

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

Solar Capital Partners, our investment adviser, is controlled and led by Michael S. Gross, our chairman and chief executive officer, and Bruce Spohler, our chief operating officer. They are supported by a team of dedicated investment professionals, including senior team members Brian Gerson, Cedric Henley, David Mait and Suhail Shaikh. We refer to Messrs. Gross, Spohler, Gerson, Henley, Mait and Shaikh as Solar Capital Partners' senior investment professionals. Solar Capital Partners' investment team has extensive experience in the private equity and leveraged lending industries, as well as significant contacts with financial sponsors operating in those industries.

Table of Contents

In addition, Solar Capital Partners presently serves as the investment adviser for Solar Senior, a publicly traded BDC with approximately \$375 million of investable capital that invests in the senior debt securities of leveraged middle-market companies similar to those we intend to target for investment. The investment team led by Messrs. Gross and Spohler has invested in approximately \$3.9 billion in more than 140 different portfolio companies for Solar Capital and Solar Senior, which investments involved an aggregate of more than 100 different financial sponsors, through December 31, 2013. Since Solar Capital's inception, these investment professionals have used their relationships in the middle-market financial sponsor and financial intermediary community to generate deal flow. As of March 25, 2014, Mr. Gross and Mr. Spohler beneficially owned, either directly or indirectly, approximately 5.1% and 4.9%, respectively, of our outstanding common stock.

Mr. Gross has over 25 years of experience in the private equity, distressed debt and mezzanine lending businesses and has been involved in originating, structuring, negotiating, consummating and managing private equity, distressed debt and mezzanine lending transactions. Prior to his current role as our chairman, chief executive officer and president, Mr. Gross founded Apollo Investment Corporation, a publicly traded BDC. He served as its chairman from February 2004 to July 2006 and its chief executive officer from February 2004 to February 2006. Under his management, Apollo Investment Corporation raised approximately \$930 million in gross proceeds in an initial public offering in April 2004, built a dedicated investment team and infrastructure and invested approximately \$2.3 billion in over 65 companies in conjunction with 50 different private equity sponsors. Mr. Gross is also a founder and a former senior partner of Apollo Management, L.P., a leading private equity firm. During his tenure at Apollo Management, L.P., Mr. Gross was a member of the investment committee that was responsible for overseeing more than \$13 billion of investments in over 150 companies.

Mr. Gross also currently serves on the boards of directors of three public companies, and in the past has served on the boards of directors of more than 20 public and private companies. As a result, Mr. Gross has developed an extensive network of private equity sponsor relationships as well as relationships with management teams of public and private companies, investment bankers, attorneys and accountants that we believe should provide us with significant business opportunities.

We also rely on the over 25 years of experience of Mr. Spohler, who has served as our chief operating officer and a partner of Solar Capital Partners since its inception. Previously, Mr. Spohler was a managing director and a former co-head of U.S. Leveraged Finance for CIBC World Markets. He held numerous senior roles at CIBC World Markets, including serving on the U.S. Management Committee, Global Executive Committee and the Deals Committee, which approves all of CIBC World Markets' U.S. corporate finance debt capital decisions. During Mr. Spohler's tenure, he was responsible for senior loan, high yield and mezzanine origination and execution, as well as CIBC World Markets' below investment grade loan portfolio in the United States. As a co-head of U.S. Leveraged Finance, Mr. Spohler oversaw over 300 capital raising and merger and acquisition transactions, comprising over \$40 billion in market capitalization.

In addition to Messrs. Gross and Spohler, Solar Capital Partners' senior investment professionals include Messrs. Gerson, Henley, Mait and Shaikh each of whom has extensive experience in originating, evaluating and structuring investments in the types of middle-market companies we currently target. Solar Capital Partners' senior investment professionals have an average of over 20 years of experience in the private equity and leveraged lending industries.

Solar Capital Partners' senior investment professionals have been active participants in the primary and secondary leveraged credit markets throughout their careers. They have effectively managed portfolios of distressed and mezzanine debt as well as other investment types. The depth of their prior experience and credit market expertise has led them through various stages of the economic cycle as well as several market disruptions.

Table of Contents

Market Opportunity

Solar Capital invests primarily in senior secured loans, mezzanine loans and equity securities of middle-market leveraged companies. We believe that the size of this market, coupled with leveraged companies' need for flexible sources of capital at attractive terms and rates, creates an attractive investment environment for us.

Middle-market companies have faced increasing difficulty in accessing the capital markets. While many middle-market companies were formerly able to raise funds by issuing high-yield bonds, we believe this approach to financing has become more difficult in recent years as institutional investors have sought to invest in larger, more liquid offerings. In addition, many private finance companies that historically financed their lending and investing activities through securitization transactions have lost that source of funding and reduced lending significantly. Moreover, consolidation and the illiquid nature of investments have resulted in fewer middle-market lenders and market participants.

There is a large pool of uninvested private equity capital likely to seek additional capital to support their investments. We believe there is more than over \$500 billion of uninvested private equity capital seeking debt financing to support acquisitions. We expect that middle-market private equity firms will continue to invest the approximately \$185 billion raised since 2000 in middle-market companies and that those private equity firms will seek to support their investments with mezzanine loans from sources such as Solar Capital.

The significant amount of debt maturing through 2018 should provide additional demand for capital. A high volume of financings were completed between the years 2004 and 2007, which are expected to mature over the next few years. We believe that this supply of prospective lending opportunities coupled with a lack of available credit in the middle-market lending space may offer attractive risk-adjusted returns to investors.

Investing in private middle-market debt provides an attractive risk reward profile. In general, terms for illiquid, middle-market subordinated debt have been more attractive than those for larger corporations which are typically more liquid. We believe this is because fewer institutions are able to invest in illiquid asset classes. In 2011, on average, the total debt to EBITDA ratio for middle-market LBOs was 4.3x, versus 5.4x for large capitalization LBOs. This reduced leverage provides further cushion for borrowers to meet debt service obligations.

Therefore, we believe that there is an attractive opportunity to invest in senior secured loans, mezzanine loans and equity securities of leveraged companies, and that we are well positioned to serve this market.

Competitive Advantages and Strategy

We believe that we have the following competitive advantages over other providers of financing to leveraged companies:

Management Expertise

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

As managing partner, Mr. Gross has principal management responsibility for Solar Capital Partners, to which he currently dedicates substantially all of his time. Mr. Gross has over 25 years of experience in leveraged finance, private equity and distressed debt investing. Mr. Spohler, our chief operating officer and a partner of Solar Capital Partners, has over 25 years of experience in evaluating and executing leverage finance transactions. We believe that Messrs. Gross and Spohler have developed a strong reputation in the capital markets, and that this experience provides us with a competitive advantage in identifying and investing in leveraged companies with the potential to generate returns. We believe that our investment team has extensive experience in the private equity and leveraged lending industries, as well as significant contacts with financial sponsors operating in those industries. We believe that our investment team has a proven track record of valuing companies and assets and negotiating transactions.

In addition to Messrs. Gross and Spohler, Solar Capital Partners senior investment team includes Messrs. Gerson, Henley, Mait and Shaikh, each of whom has extensive experience in originating, evaluating and

Table of Contents

structuring investments in the types of middle-market companies we currently target. Solar Capital Partners' senior investment professionals have an average of over 20 years of experience in the private equity and leveraged lending industries.

Solar Capital Partners' senior investment professionals have been active participants in the primary and secondary leveraged credit markets throughout their careers. They have effectively managed portfolios of distressed and mezzanine debt as well as other investment types. The depth of their experience and credit market expertise has led them through various stages of the economic cycle as well as several market disruptions.

Investment Capacity

The proceeds from our initial public offering and the Concurrent Private Placement, the borrowing capacity under the Credit Facility, our Senior Secured Notes and our Unsecured Notes, and the expected repayments of existing investments provide us with a substantial amount of capital available for deployment into new investment opportunities. We believe we are well positioned for the current marketplace. We believe that in the current economic environment financing needs of many companies will increase while funding options are limited, allowing us to capitalize on favorable investment opportunities.

Solar Capital's Limited Leverage

As of December 31, 2013, we had total outstanding borrowings of approximately \$225 million. We believe our relatively low level of leverage provides us with a competitive advantage, allowing us to anticipate providing a consistent dividend to our investors, as proceeds from our investments are available for reinvestment as opposed to being consumed by debt repayment. To the extent borrowing conditions improve and leverage becomes available on more attractive terms, we may increase our relative level of debt in the future. However, we do not currently anticipate operating with a substantial amount of debt relative to our total assets. Furthermore, by maintaining prudent leverage levels, we believe we will be better positioned to weather future market downturns.

Proprietary Sourcing and Origination

We believe that Solar Capital Partners' senior investment professionals' longstanding relationships with financial sponsors, commercial and investment banks, management teams and other financial intermediaries provide us with a strong pipeline of proprietary origination opportunities. We believe the broad expertise of Solar Capital Partners' senior investment team and their ability to draw upon their average of over 20 years of investment experience enable us to identify, assess and structure investments successfully. We expect to continue leveraging the relationships Mr. Gross established while sourcing and originating investments at Apollo as well as the financial sponsor relationships Mr. Spohler developed while he was a co-head of CIBC World Markets' U.S. Leveraged Finance Group.

Our senior investment team's strong relationship network is enhanced by the collaborative role Solar Capital plays in the private equity industry. We offer tailored solutions to our portfolio companies, and we believe that this role provides us with greater deal flow as opposed to being viewed as a competitor bidding for control stakes. Because Solar Capital is not associated with a private equity firm, we are not precluded from partnering with most of the top tier financial sponsors.

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

These direct investments enable us to perform more in-depth due diligence and play an active role in structuring financings. We believe that effectuating the transaction terms and having greater insight into a portfolio company's operations and financial picture assist Solar Capital in minimizing downside potential, while reinforcing Solar Capital as a trusted partner who delivers comprehensive financing solutions. Since its inception, Solar Capital Partners has sourced investments in more than 140 different portfolio companies for both Solar Capital and Solar Senior, collectively, which investments involved an aggregate of more than 100 different financial sponsors, through December 31, 2013.

Table of Contents

Versatile Transaction Structuring and Flexibility of Capital

We believe Solar Capital Partners' senior investment team's broad expertise and ability to draw upon its extensive experience enable us to identify, assess and structure investments successfully across all levels of a company's capital structure and to manage potential risk and return at all stages of the economic cycle. While we are subject to significant regulation as a BDC, we are not subject to many of the regulatory limitations that govern traditional lending institutions such as banks. As a result, we believe that we can be more flexible than such lending institutions in selecting and structuring investments, adjusting investment criteria, transaction structures and, in some cases, the types of securities in which we invest. We believe financial sponsors, management teams and investment banks see this flexibility as a benefit, making us an attractive financing partner. We believe that this approach enables us to procure attractive investment opportunities throughout the economic cycle so that we can make investments consistent with our stated investment objective even during turbulent periods in the capital markets.

Emphasis on Achieving Strong Risk-Adjusted Returns

Solar Capital Partners uses a disciplined investment and risk management process that emphasizes a rigorous fundamental research and analysis framework. Solar Capital Partners seeks to build our portfolio on a bottom-up basis, choosing and sizing individual positions based on their relative risk/reward profiles as a function of the associated downside risk, volatility, correlation with the existing portfolio and liquidity. At the same time, Solar Capital Partners takes into consideration a variety of factors in managing our portfolio and imposes portfolio-based risk constraints promoting a more diverse portfolio of investments and limiting issuer and industry concentration. Our value-oriented investment philosophy focuses on preserving capital and ensuring that our investments have an appropriate return profile in relation to risk. When market conditions make it difficult for us to invest according to our criteria, we are highly selective in deploying our capital. We do not pursue short-term origination targets. We believe this approach enables us to build an attractive investment portfolio that meets our return and value criteria over the long term.

We believe it is critical to conduct extensive due diligence on investment targets. In evaluating new investments we, through Solar Capital Partners, conduct a rigorous due diligence process that draws upon the investment experience, industry expertise and network of contacts of our senior investment professionals, as well as the other members of our investment team. Among other things, our due diligence is designed to help ensure that a prospective portfolio company will be able to meet its debt service obligations.

We have the ability to invest across an issuer's capital structure, which we believe enables us to provide comprehensive financing solutions for our portfolio companies, as well as access the best risk-adjusted opportunities. The overall transaction size and product mix is based upon the needs of the customer, as well as our risk-return hurdles. We also focus on downside protection and preservation of capital throughout the structuring process.

Deep Industry Focus with Substantial Information Flow

We concentrate our investing activities in industries characterized by strong cash flow and in which Solar Capital Partners' investment professionals have deep investment experience. During his time with the Apollo entities, Mr. Gross oversaw investments in over 200 companies in 20 industries. As a result of their investment experience, Messrs. Gross and Spohler, together with Solar Capital Partners' other senior investment professionals, have long-term relationships with management consultants and management teams in the industries we target, as well as substantial information concerning those industries. Solar Capital Partners' investment team also has significant experience in evaluating and making investments in the industries we target. We believe that the in-depth experience of Solar Capital Partners' investment team in investing throughout various stages of the economic cycle provides our investment adviser with access to ongoing market insights in addition to a

powerful asset for investment sourcing. See Investments.

Table of Contents

Longer Investment Horizon

Unlike private equity and venture capital funds, we will not be subject to standard periodic capital return requirements. Such requirements typically stipulate that the capital of these funds, together with any capital gains on such invested funds, can only be invested once and must be returned to investors after a pre-agreed time period. We believe that our flexibility to make investments with a long-term view and without the capital return requirements of traditional private investment vehicles provides us with the opportunity to generate favorable returns on invested capital and enables us to be a better long-term partner for our portfolio companies.

Investments

Solar Capital seeks to create a diverse portfolio that includes senior secured loans, mezzanine loans and equity securities by investing approximately \$20 to \$100 million of capital, on average, in the securities of leveraged companies, including middle-market companies. Our portfolio includes both senior secured loans and mezzanine loans. Structurally, mezzanine loans usually rank subordinate in priority of payment to senior debt, such as senior bank debt, and are often unsecured. As such, other creditors may rank senior to us in the event of insolvency. However, mezzanine loans rank senior to common and preferred equity in a borrower's capital structure. Typically, mezzanine loans have both elements of debt and equity instruments, offering fixed returns in the form of interest payments associated with senior debt, while providing lenders an opportunity to participate in the capital appreciation of a borrower, if any, through an equity interest. This equity interest may take the form of warrants. Due to its higher risk profile and often less restrictive covenants as compared to senior loans, mezzanine loans generally earn a higher return than senior secured loans. The warrants associated with mezzanine loans are typically detachable, which allows lenders to receive repayment of their principal on an agreed amortization schedule while retaining their equity interest in the borrower. Mezzanine loans also may include a put feature, which permits the holder to sell its equity interest back to the borrower at a price determined through an agreed formula. We believe that mezzanine loans offer an attractive investment opportunity based upon their historic returns and resilience during economic downturns.

In addition to senior secured loans and mezzanine loans, we may invest a portion of our portfolio in opportunistic investments, which are not our primary focus, but are intended to enhance our returns to our investors. These investments may include direct investments in public companies that are not thinly traded and securities of leveraged companies located in select countries outside of the United States. The securities that we invest in are typically rated below investment grade. Securities rated below investment grade are often referred to as leveraged loans, high yield or junk securities, and may be considered high risk compared to debt instruments that are rated investment grade. In addition, some of our debt investments will not fully amortize during their lifetime, which could result in a loss or a substantial amount of unpaid principal and interest due upon maturity. We may invest up to 30% of our total assets in such opportunistic investments, including senior loans issued by non-U.S. issuers, subject to compliance with our regulatory obligations as a business development company under the 1940 Act.

We may borrow funds to make investments. As a result, we will be exposed to the risks of leverage, which may be considered a speculative investment technique. The use of leverage magnifies the potential for loss on amounts invested and therefore increases the risks associated with investing in our securities. In addition, the costs associated with our borrowings, including any increase in management fees payable to our investment adviser, Solar Capital Partners, will be borne by our common stockholders.

Additionally, we may in the future seek to securitize our loans to generate cash for funding new investments. To securitize loans, we may create a wholly owned subsidiary and contribute a pool of loans to the subsidiary. This could include the sale of interests in the subsidiary on a non-recourse basis to purchasers who we would expect to be willing to accept a lower interest rate to invest in investment grade loan pools, and we would retain a portion of the equity in the securitized pool of loans.

Table of Contents

Moreover, we may acquire investments in the secondary market and, in analyzing such investments, we will employ the same analytical process as we use for our primary investments.

We may utilize instruments such as forward contracts, currency options and interest rate swaps, caps, collars and floors to seek to hedge against fluctuations in the relative values of our portfolio positions from changes in currency exchange rates and market interest rates. Hedging against a decline in the values of our portfolio positions does not eliminate the possibility of fluctuations in the values of such positions or prevent losses if the values of such positions decline. However, such hedging can establish other positions designed to gain from those same developments, thereby offsetting the decline in the value of such portfolio positions. Such hedging transactions may also limit the opportunity for gain if the values of the underlying portfolio positions should increase. It may not be possible to hedge against an exchange rate or interest rate fluctuation that is so generally anticipated that we are not able to enter into a hedging transaction at an acceptable price. Moreover, for a variety of reasons, we may not seek to establish a perfect correlation between such hedging instruments and the portfolio holdings being hedged. Any such imperfect correlation may prevent us from achieving the intended hedge and expose us to risk of loss. In addition, it may not be possible to hedge fully or perfectly against currency fluctuations affecting the value of securities denominated in non-U.S. currencies because the value of those securities is likely to fluctuate as a result of factors not related to currency fluctuations.

Our principal focus is to provide senior secured loans and mezzanine loans to leveraged companies in a variety of industries. We generally seek to target companies that generate positive cash flows. We generally seek to invest in companies from the broad variety of industries in which our investment adviser has direct expertise.

The following is a representative list of the industries in which we may invest:

Aerospace & Defense	Health Care Services
Air Freight & Logistics	Health Care Technology
Automobiles	Hotels, Restaurants & Leisure
Asset Management & Custody Banks	Industrial Conglomerates
Building Products	Insurance
Chemicals	Internet Software & Services
Commercial Services & Supplies	IT Services
Communications Equipment	Leisure Equipment & Products
Construction & Engineering	Machinery
Consumer Finance	Media
Containers & Packaging	Multiline Retail
Distributors	Paper & Forest Products
Diversified Consumer Services	Personal Products

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

Diversified Financial Services	Professional Services
Diversified Real Estate Activities	Research & Consulting Services
Diversified Telecommunications Services	Software
Education Services	Specialty Retail
Food Products	Textiles, Apparel & Luxury Goods
Footwear	Utilities
Health Care Equipment & Supplies	

We may also invest in other industries if we are presented with attractive opportunities.

We may invest, to the extent permitted by law, in the securities and instruments of other investment companies, including private funds. We may also co-invest on a concurrent basis with affiliates of ours, subject to compliance with applicable regulations and our allocation procedures. Certain types of negotiated co-investments may be made only if we receive an order from the SEC permitting us to do so. There can be no assurance that any such order will be obtained.

At December 31, 2013, our portfolio consisted of 40 portfolio companies and was invested 40.8% in senior secured loans, 23.4% in subordinated debt, 2.4% in preferred equity and 33.4% in common equity and warrants,

Table of Contents

in each case, measured at fair value. We expect that our portfolio will continue to include primarily senior secured and mezzanine loans as well as, to a lesser extent, equity-related securities. In addition, we also expect to invest a portion of our portfolio in portion of the portfolio in opportunistic investments, which are not our primary focus, but are intended to enhance our risk-adjusted returns to stockholders. These investments may include, but are not limited to, securities of public companies and debt and equity securities of companies located outside of the United States.

While our primary investment objective is to generate current income and capital appreciation through investments in U.S. senior and subordinated loans, other debt securities and equity, we may also invest a portion of the portfolio in opportunistic investments, including foreign securities.

Listed below are our top ten portfolio companies and industries based on their fair value and represented as a percentage of total assets as of December 31, 2013 and December 31, 2012:

TOP TEN PORTFOLIO COMPANIES AND INDUSTRIES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2013

Portfolio Company	% of Total Assets
Crystal Capital Financial Holdings LLC	17.9%
Earthbound Farm.	3.5%
WireCo Worldgroup Inc.	2.8%
Isotoner Corporation	2.6%
Adams Outdoor Advertising	2.6%
Tecomet, Inc.	2.6%
Quantum Foods, LLC	1.9%
Rug Doctor.	1.8%
Alegeus Technologies Holdings Corp.	1.7%
MYI Acquiror Corporation	1.5%
Industry	% of Total Assets
Diversified Financial Services	17.9%
Food Products	6.8%
Insurance	4.6%
Specialty Retail	3.3%
Media	3.2%
Aerospace & Defense	2.9%
Building Products	2.8%
Health Care Equipment & Supplies	2.6%
Health Care Technology	2.2%
Consumer Finance	2.0%

TOP TEN PORTFOLIO COMPANIES AND INDUSTRIES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2012

Portfolio Company	% of Total Assets
Crystal Capital Financial Holdings LLC	19.2%
DS Waters of America, Inc.	11.0%

Edgar Filing: Solar Capital Ltd. - Form N-2

Midcap Financial Intermediate Holdings LLC	5.9%
ARK Real Estate	4.8%
Earthbound Farm	3.9%
WireCo. Worldgroup Inc.	3.4%
Adams Outdoor Advertising	3.0%
Rug Doctor L.P.	3.0%
Trident USA Health Services, LLC	2.9%
ViaWest Inc.	2.9%
	% of
Industry	Total Assets
Diversified Financial Services	19.2%
Beverage, Food & Tobacco	12.6%
Banking	8.4%
Personal, Food & Misc. Services	7.6%
Insurance	6.7%
Buildings & Real Estate	4.8%
Healthcare, Education & Childcare	4.2%
Farming & Agriculture	3.9%
Aerospace & Defense	