

WIRELESS FACILITIES INC

Form S-3

February 19, 2004

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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 19, 2004

Registration No. 333-

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20549

FORM S-3

REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Under

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

WIRELESS FACILITIES, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

13-3818604

(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

4810 Eastgate Mall

San Diego, CA 92121

(858) 228-2000

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number,

including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

Eric DeMarco

President and Chief Operating Officer

4810 Eastgate Mall

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San Diego, CA 92121

(858) 228-2000

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number,
including area code, of agent for service of process)

With a copy to:

Scott M. Stanton, Esq.

Laura G. Sand, Esq.

Gray Cary Ware & Freidenrich LLP

4365 Executive Drive, Suite 1100

San Diego, CA 92121-2133

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public:

From time to time after this Registration Statement becomes effective.

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

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

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

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

If delivery of the prospectus is expected to be made pursuant to Rule 434, check the following box.

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CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit or Share	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee
Common Stock, \$0.001 par value per share				
Preferred Stock, \$0.001 par value per share				
Subordinated Debt Securities				
Senior Debt Securities				
Warrants				
Total			\$200,000,000(1)(2)(3)	\$25,340(4)
Common Stock, \$0.001 par value per share, held by selling stockholders	5,400,000	\$14.28(5)	\$77,112,000(5)	\$9,770(5)
Aggregate Securities for Primary Offering and Selling Stockholders			\$277,112,000	\$35,110

- (1) Pursuant to Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act of 1933, which permits the registration fee to be calculated on the basis of the maximum offering price of all securities listed, the table does not specify information as to the amount of any particular security to be registered.
- (2) There are being registered hereunder such indeterminate number of shares of common stock and preferred stock, such indeterminate principal amount of debt securities and such indeterminate amount of warrants as may be offered from time to time, with an aggregate initial offering price not to exceed \$200,000,000. If any debt securities are issued at an original issue discount, then the offering price of such debt securities shall be in such greater principal amount as shall result in an aggregate initial offering price not to exceed \$200,000,000, less the aggregate dollar amount of all securities previously issued hereunder. Any securities registered hereunder may be sold separately or as units with other securities registered hereunder. The securities registered also include such indeterminate amounts and numbers of common stock, preferred stock and debt securities as may be issued upon exercise of warrants or conversion of or exchange for preferred stock or debt securities that provide for conversion or exchange or pursuant to the antidilution provisions of any such securities.
- (3) The proposed maximum aggregate offering price per class of security and per unit or share will be determined from time to time by the Registrant in connection with the issuance by the Registrant of the securities registered hereunder and is not specified as to each class of security pursuant to General Instruction II.D. of Form S-3 under the Securities Act of 1933.
- (4) Calculated pursuant to Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act of 1933.
- (5) Pursuant to Rule 457(c) under the Securities Act of 1933, such price is based on the average of the high and low sale prices of our common stock on February 17, 2004, as reported on the Nasdaq National Market.

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 Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

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The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell 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, nor is it soliciting offers to buy these securities, in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

PROSPECTUS (Subject to Completion)

dated February 19, 2004

\$200,000,000

plus

5,400,000 Shares of Common Stock

to be Offered by Selling Stockholders

We may offer, from time to time, together or separately, up to \$200,000,000 aggregate amount, or the equivalent in one or more foreign currencies or currency units, of:

common stock

preferred stock

subordinated debt securities

senior debt securities

warrants

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We may offer the securities in one or more series, in amounts, at prices and on terms determined at the time of offering. We will provide the specific terms of any securities we actually offer for sale in supplements to this prospectus.

This prospectus also relates to up to 5,400,000 shares of our common stock that the selling stockholders named in this prospectus may offer from time to time. The registration of these shares does not necessarily mean that the selling stockholders will offer or sell their shares.

You should read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement carefully before you purchase any of our securities. This prospectus may not be used to sell securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

We or the selling stockholders may sell the securities directly to you, through agents we select, or through underwriters or dealers we or the selling stockholders select. If we or the selling stockholders use agents, underwriters or dealers to sell the securities, they will be named and their compensation will be described in one or more prospectus supplements. The net proceeds we expect to receive from such sales will be set forth in the prospectus supplement. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale by the selling stockholders of their shares of common stock.

Our common stock is traded on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol WFII. On February 17, 2004, the last reported sale price of our common stock on the Nasdaq National Market was \$14.36 per share. The preferred stock, the warrants and the debt securities are not currently publicly traded.

Investing in our securities involves risks. You should carefully consider the risk factors incorporated by reference into this prospectus before you make an investment in our securities.

The Securities and Exchange Commission and state securities regulators have not approved or disapproved these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is _____, 2004

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IMPORTANT NOTICE TO READERS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, using a shelf registration process. Under the shelf registration process, using this prospectus, together with a prospectus supplement, we may sell, from time to time, in one or more offerings, any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in a dollar amount that does not exceed \$200,000,000, in the aggregate and the selling stockholders named in this prospectus may offer and sell up to 5,400,000 shares of our common stock. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we or the selling stockholders may offer. Each time we or the selling stockholders offer securities, a prospectus supplement will be provided that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement and the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus before making an investment in our securities. See Where You Can Find More Information for more information.

You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or a prospectus supplement. Neither we nor any of the selling stockholders have authorized anyone to provide you with different information. This document may be used only in jurisdictions where offers and sales of these securities are permitted. You should not assume that information contained in this prospectus, in any supplement to this prospectus, or in any document incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front page of the document that contains the information, regardless of when this prospectus is delivered or when any sale of our securities occurs.

In this prospectus, we use the terms WFI, we, us and our to refer to Wireless Facilities, Inc.

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SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus, including the documents that we incorporate by reference, contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act. Any statements about our expectations, beliefs, plans, objectives, assumptions or future events or performance are not historical facts and may be forward-looking. These statements are often, but are not always, made through the use of words or phrases such as anticipates, estimates, plans, projects, continuing, ongoing, expects, management believes, we believe, we intend and similar. Accordingly, these statements involve estimates, assumptions and uncertainties which could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in them. Any forward-looking statements are qualified in their entirety by reference to the factors discussed throughout this prospectus, and in particular to the factors discussed under the section entitled Risk Factors in the periodic reports incorporated by reference into this prospectus. Among the key factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements are:

changes in the rate of growth and deployment of wireless networks;

changes in economic conditions of the various markets we serve;

the loss of key customers or delays in project timing for our customers;

the risks associated with acquiring and integrating businesses that we may acquire;

our ability to successfully expand our government services division; and

our ability to win federal government contracts and to achieve anticipated synergies between our divisions.

Because the factors referred to above could cause actual results or outcomes to differ materially from those expressed in any forward-looking statements we make, you should not place undue reliance on any such forward-looking statements. Further, any forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date on which it is made, and we undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statement or statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date on which such statement is made or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. New factors emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for us to predict which factors will arise. In addition, we cannot assess the impact of each factor on our business or the extent to which any factor, or combination of factors, may cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statements.

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PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

This summary highlights selected information about our company and provides a general description of the securities we may offer. This summary is not complete and does not contain all of the information that may be important to you. For a more complete understanding of us and the terms of the particular securities we will offer, you should read carefully this entire prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement for such securities and the other documents we refer to and incorporate by reference. In particular, we incorporate important business, financial and other information in this prospectus by reference.

Our Company

We are an independent provider of outsourced communications and security systems engineering and integration services and other technical services for the wireless communications industry, the US government, and enterprise customers. We were incorporated in the state of New York on December 19, 1994 and began operations in March 1995. We reincorporated in the state of Delaware in 1998. We consummated our initial public offering on November 5, 1999.

The principal services we provide include, but are not limited to, the design, deployment, integration, and the overall management of communications and security networks. Our work for the wireless communications industry primarily involves radio frequency engineering, site development, project management and the installation of radio equipment networks. We also provide network management services, which involve day-to-day optimization and maintenance of wireless networks. As part of our strategy, we are technology and vendor independent. We believe that this aligns our goals with those of our customers and enables us to objectively evaluate and recommend specific products or technologies. We provide network design and deployment services to wireless carriers including, but not limited to, (in alphabetical order) AT&T Wireless, Cingular, Sprint, T-Mobile, Telcel, Telefonica, and Verizon and equipment vendors such as Ericsson, Nortel and Siemens. We have internally developed a methodology of planning and deploying wireless networks that allows us to deliver reliable and scalable network solutions, primarily on a fixed-price, time-certain basis. We believe this enables our customers to improve their ability to forecast the costs and timing of network deployment and management and increase their focus on internal core competencies while relying on us for planning, designing, deploying and managing their networks. Our work for the federal government primarily involves systems engineering, systems integration, and the outsourcing of technical services such as operational test and evaluation and program management. We also provide services in the areas of mission assurance, product and process validation and verification, and software and applications development. Our work for enterprise customers primarily involves the design, deployment, and integration of security and other in-building systems including access control and intrusion detection.

Our principal executive offices are located at 4810 Eastgate Mall, San Diego, California 92121. Our telephone number is (858) 228-2000.

The Securities We May Offer

We may use this prospectus to offer up to \$200,000,000 of common stock, preferred stock, debt securities and warrants, in one or more offerings and in any combination. If we issue debt securities at a discount from their original stated principal amount, then, for purposes of calculating the total dollar amount of all securities issued under this prospectus, we will treat the initial offering price of the debt securities as the total original principal amount of the debt securities. A prospectus supplement, which we will provide each time we offer securities, will describe the specific types, amounts, prices and detailed terms of any of these offered securities and may describe risks associated with an investment in the securities. We will also include in the prospectus supplement, where

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applicable, information about material United States federal income tax considerations relating to the securities. Terms used in this prospectus will have the meanings described in this prospectus unless otherwise specified.

We may sell the securities to or through underwriters, dealers or agents or directly to purchasers. We, as well as any agents acting on our behalf, reserve the sole right to accept and to reject in whole or in part any proposed purchase of securities. Each prospectus supplement will set forth the names of any underwriters, dealers or agents involved in the sale of securities described in that prospectus supplement and any applicable fee, commission or discount arrangements with them.

Common Stock

We may offer shares of our common stock either alone or underlying other registered securities convertible into our common stock. Holders of our common stock are entitled to such dividends as our board of directors may declare from time to time out of legally available funds, subject to the preferential rights of the holders of any shares of our preferred stock that are outstanding or that we may issue in the future. Currently, we do not pay any dividends. Each holder of our common stock is entitled to one vote per share. Holders of our common stock have no preemptive rights.

Preferred Stock

We may issue shares of preferred stock in one or more classes or series. Our board of directors or a committee designated by our board of directors will determine the dividend, voting and conversion rights and other provisions at the time of sale. The particular terms of each class or series of preferred stock, including redemption privileges, liquidation preferences, voting rights, dividend rights and/or conversion rights, will be more fully described in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to the preferred stock offered thereby.

Warrants

We may issue securities warrants for the purchase of debt securities, preferred stock or common stock. The securities warrants may be issued independently or together with debt securities, preferred stock or common stock and may be attached to or separate from any offered securities. Each series of securities warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between us and a warrant agent. This prospectus contains only general terms and provisions of the securities warrants. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the particular terms of the securities warrants being offered thereby.

Debt Securities

We may issue debt securities under an indenture to be entered between us and a trustee. A form of the indenture is included as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. The indenture does not limit the amount of securities that may be issued under it and provides that debt securities may be issued in one or more series. Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities will be unsecured obligations of ours and will rank equally and ratably with our other unsecured obligations. This prospectus contains

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only general terms and provisions of the debt securities. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the particular terms of the debt securities being offered thereby.

The Securities The Selling Stockholders May Offer

From time to time, the selling stockholders may use this prospectus to offer up to 5,400,000 shares of our common stock held by them. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale by the selling stockholders of their shares of common stock.

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Except as otherwise described in the applicable prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities offered hereunder to fund acquisitions of complementary businesses, working capital, capital expenditures and other general corporate purposes. Pending the use of such net proceeds, we intend to invest these funds in investment-grade, short-term interest bearing securities. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale by the selling stockholders of their shares of common stock.

DIVIDEND POLICY

We have not declared or paid any dividends on our common stock since our inception and do not intend to pay any dividends on our common stock in the foreseeable future. We currently intend to retain our future earnings, if any, to finance the further expansion and continued growth of our business.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND EARNINGS TO COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS

The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to fixed charges and earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for each of the periods indicated.⁽¹⁾

	Years Ended December 31,				
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges	16.5	18.4			14.1
Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends	16.5	18.4			14.1
Deficiency of Earnings Available to Cover Fixed Charges	\$	\$	\$ (75.2)	\$ (53.6)	\$

- (1) We operate and report using a 52-53 week fiscal year ending the last Friday in December. As a result, a fifty-third week is added every five or six years. Our 52 week fiscal year consists of four equal quarters of 13 weeks each, and our 53 week fiscal year consists of three 13 week quarters and one 14 week quarter. For presentation purposes, all fiscal periods in this prospectus have been presented as ending on the last day of the calendar year.

DESCRIPTION OF COMMON AND PREFERRED STOCK

The following description of our common stock and preferred stock, together with the additional information we include in any applicable prospectus supplement, summarizes the material terms and provisions of the common stock and the preferred stock that we may offer pursuant to this prospectus. While the terms we have summarized below will apply generally to any future common stock or preferred stock that we may offer, we will describe the particular terms of any class or series of these securities in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. For the complete terms of our common stock and preferred stock, please refer to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and our amended and restated bylaws that are incorporated by reference into the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part or may be

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incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement. The terms of these securities may also be affected by the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware. The summary below and that contained in any prospectus supplement is qualified in its entirety by reference to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and our amended and restated bylaws.

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Authorized Capitalization

As of the date of this prospectus, our capital structure consists of 195,000,000 authorized shares of common stock, par value \$.001 per share, and 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$.001 per share, of which 63,637 shares are designated as Series A Preferred Stock, none of which are outstanding and 90,000 shares are designated as Series B Preferred Stock, 82,258 of which are outstanding. As of February 11, 2004, an aggregate of 63,098,719 shares of our common stock were issued and outstanding.

Common Stock

The holders of our common stock are entitled to such dividends as our board of directors may declare from time to time from legally available funds, subject to the preferential rights of the holders of shares of our preferred stock that is then outstanding or that we may issue in the future. The holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote per share on any matter to be voted upon by stockholders.

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation prohibits cumulative voting, except in very limited circumstances that do not currently exist. The members of our board of directors are elected by a plurality of the shares voting once a quorum is present. No holder of our common stock has any preemptive right to subscribe for any shares of capital stock issued in the future.

Upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs, the holders of our common stock are entitled to share, on a pro rata basis, all assets remaining after payment to creditors and subject to prior distribution rights of the holders of any shares of preferred stock. All of the outstanding shares of common stock are and the shares of common stock issued upon the conversion of any outstanding shares of our preferred stock will be, fully paid and non-assessable. The shares of common stock offered by this prospectus or upon the conversion of any preferred stock or debt securities or exercise of any warrants offered pursuant to this prospectus, when issued and paid for, will also be, fully paid and non-assessable.

Preferred Stock

Under our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, our board of directors, without further action by our stockholders, is authorized to issue up to 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock in one or more classes or series. The board may fix or alter the powers, preferences and rights of the preferred stock, along with any qualifications, limitations or restrictions, including voting rights, dividend rights, conversion rights, redemption privileges and liquidation preferences of each class or series of preferred stock.

On October 29, 2001, we issued an aggregate of 63,637 shares of our Series A Preferred Stock. On October 30, 2003, the holders of the outstanding shares elected to convert the 63,637 shares of Series A Preferred Stock into shares of our common stock. Each preferred share converted into 110 shares of common stock for a total of 7,000,070 shares of our common stock. Approximately 1,400,000 of the shares of common stock are subject to a lock-up provision contained in the Series A Convertible Preferred Stock Agreement and will not be available for resale until April 29, 2004.

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On May 30, 2002, we issued an aggregate of 90,000 shares of Series B Preferred Stock. Each share of Series B Preferred Stock currently is convertible into 100 shares of our common stock. After February 28, 2005, the outstanding shares of our Series B Preferred Stock will automatically convert into shares of our common stock if and when our common stock trades at or above \$11.00 per share for 30 consecutive trading days after that date. Certain holders of shares of our Series B Preferred Stock have previously elected to convert 7,742 shares of Series B Preferred Stock into 774,200 shares of common stock. The shares of Series B Preferred Stock are subject to a lock-up provision contained in the Series B Convertible Preferred Stock Agreement. As of November 30, 2003, approximately 18,000 shares of Series B Preferred Stock were released from the lock-up provision and approximately 18,000 shares will be released from the lock-up provision and available for resale

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on each of February 29, 2004, May 30, 2004, August 30, 2004 and November 30, 2004. Upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs, before any payment may be made to the holders of our common stock, the holders of our Series B Preferred Stock are entitled to \$500 per share plus all accumulated or accrued and unpaid dividends for such share. Holders of shares of our Series B Preferred Stock are entitled to vote on all matters submitted to a vote of the holders of shares of our common stock, including with respect to the election of members of our board of directors, on an as if converted to common stock basis.

Anti-Takeover Effects of Certain Provisions of Delaware Law and Our Charter Documents

Effect of Delaware Anti-Takeover Statute. We are subject to Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, an anti-takeover law. In general, Section 203 prohibits a Delaware corporation from engaging in any business combination with any interested stockholder for a period of three years following the date that the stockholder became an interested stockholder, unless:

prior to that date, the board of directors of the corporation approved either the business combination or the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder;

upon consummation of the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder, the interested stockholder owned at least 85% of the voting stock of the corporation outstanding at the time the transaction commenced, excluding for purposes of determining the number of shares of voting stock outstanding (but not the voting stock owned by the interested stockholder) those shares owned by persons who are directors and officers and by excluding employee stock plans in which employee participants do not have the right to determine whether shares held subject to the plan will be tendered in a tender or exchange offer; or

on or subsequent to that date, the business combination is approved by the board of directors of the corporation and authorized at an annual or special meeting of stockholders, and not by written consent, by the affirmative vote of at least 66²/₃% of the outstanding voting stock that is not owned by the interested stockholder.

Section 203 defines *business combination* to include the following:

any merger or consolidation involving the corporation and the interested stockholder;

any sale, transfer, pledge or other disposition of 10% or more of the assets of the corporation involving the interested stockholder;

subject to certain exceptions, any transaction that results in the issuance or transfer by the corporation of any stock of the corporation to the interested stockholder;

any transaction involving the corporation that has the effect of increasing the proportionate share of the stock of any class or series of the corporation beneficially owned by the interested stockholder; or

the receipt by the interested stockholder of the benefit of any loans, advances, guarantees, pledges or other financial benefits provided by or through the corporation.

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In general, Section 203 defines an interested stockholder as any entity or person beneficially owning 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation, or who beneficially owns 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation at anytime within a three year period immediately prior to the date of determining whether such person is an interested stockholder, and any entity or person affiliated with or controlling or controlled by any of these entities or persons.

Our Charter Documents. Our charter documents include provisions that may have the effect of discouraging, delaying or preventing a change in control or an unsolicited acquisition proposal that a stockholder might consider favorable, including a proposal that might result in the payment of a premium over the market price for the shares held by our stockholders. Certain of these provisions are summarized in the following paragraphs.

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Supermajority Voting. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation requires the approval at least 66²/₃% of our combined voting power to effect amendments to certain provisions of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation. In addition, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation requires the approval of either our board of directors or the holders of at least 66²/₃% of our combined voting power to effect amendments to our amended and restated bylaws.

No Stockholder Action by Written Consent. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that an action required or permitted to be taken at any annual or special meeting of our stockholders may only be taken at a duly called annual or special meeting of stockholders. This provision prevents stockholders from initiating or effecting any action by written consent, and thereby taking actions opposed by the board.

Limitation of Director Liability. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws limit the liability of our directors to us or our stockholders to the fullest extent permitted by law. Our amended and restated bylaws provide that our directors, officers, employees and agents shall be indemnified and provide for the advancement to them of expenses in connection with actual or threatened proceedings and claims arising out of their status as such to the fullest extent permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law. We are also empowered under our amended and restated bylaws to purchase insurance on behalf of any officer, director, employee or agent, whether or not we would have the power to indemnify such person against liability. We have also entered into indemnification agreements with each of our directors and executive officers.

Change in Control Agreements. A number of our executives have agreements with us that entitle them to payments in certain circumstances following a change in control.

Prohibition Against Cumulative Voting in the Election of Directors. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation prohibits cumulative voting in the election of directors, except under very narrow circumstances that do not currently exist.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is Wells Fargo Shareowner Services. The applicable prospectus supplement will specify the transfer agent and registrar for any shares of preferred stock we may offer pursuant to this prospectus.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

General

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

Debt securities that we may issue will be issued under an indenture between us and a trustee. We have filed the form of the indenture as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. If we enter into any indenture supplement, we will file a copy of that supplement with the SEC.

THE FOLLOWING DESCRIPTION IS A SUMMARY OF THE MATERIAL PROVISIONS OF THE INDENTURE. IT DOES NOT RESTATE THE INDENTURE IN ITS ENTIRETY. THE INDENTURE IS GOVERNED BY THE TRUST INDENTURE ACT OF 1939. THE TERMS OF THE DEBT SECURITIES INCLUDE THOSE STATED IN THE INDENTURE AND THOSE MADE PART OF THE INDENTURE BY

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REFERENCE TO THE TRUST INDENTURE ACT. WE URGE YOU TO READ THE INDENTURE BECAUSE IT, AND NOT THIS DESCRIPTION, DEFINES YOUR RIGHTS AS A HOLDER OF THE DEBT SECURITIES.

The indenture contains no covenant or provision which affords debt holders protection in the event of a highly leveraged transaction.

Information You Will Find in the Prospectus Supplement

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Holders of debt securities may present debt securities for exchange in the manner, at the places, and subject to the restrictions set forth in the debt securities, the indenture, and the prospectus supplement. We will provide these services without charge, other than any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection therewith, but subject to the limitations provided in the indenture, any board resolution establishing such debt securities and any applicable indenture supplement. Debt securities in bearer form and the coupons, if any, appertaining thereto will be transferable by delivery.

Senior Debt

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

Subordinated Debt

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

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

Senior Subordinated Debt

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

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Interest Rate

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

any discounted debt securities; and

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

Registered Global Securities

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Payment of Interest on and Principal of Registered Global Securities

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

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

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

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

any other matter relating to the actions and practices of the depository, its nominee or any of its participants.

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

Exchange of Registered Global Securities

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

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

we do not appoint a successor depositary within 90 days.

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

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Covenants by WFI

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

Events of Default

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

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