

AXIS CAPITAL HOLDINGS LTD
Form 8-K
May 07, 2015

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

FORM 8-K

Current Report

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d)
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): May 6, 2015 (May 3, 2015)

AXIS CAPITAL HOLDINGS LIMITED
(Exact Name Of Registrant As Specified In Charter)

Bermuda
(State of Incorporation)

001-31721
(Commission File No.)

98-0395986
(I.R.S. Employer Identification
No.)

92 Pitts Bay Road
Pembroke, Bermuda HM 08

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(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

(441) 496-2600

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Not applicable

(Former name or address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2 below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e(4)(c))

Item 1.01. Entry into a Material Definitive Agreement.

Fourth Amendment to the Amalgamation Agreement

On May 3, 2015, AXIS Capital Holdings Limited (**AXIS** or the **Company**), a Bermuda exempted company, and PartnerRe Ltd., a Bermuda exempted company (**PartnerRe**), entered into the Fourth Amendment to the Agreement and Plan of Amalgamation (the **Fourth Amendment**), further amending the Agreement and Plan of Amalgamation originally entered into by and between PartnerRe and AXIS, dated as of January 25, 2015 and which was thereafter amended on February 17, 2015, March 10, 2015 and March 31, 2015 (as amended to date, the **Amalgamation Agreement**). Pursuant to the Amalgamation Agreement, subject to the satisfaction or waiver of certain conditions, PartnerRe will amalgamate with AXIS (the **Amalgamation**) and the amalgamated company will continue as a Bermuda exempted company (the **Amalgamated Company**).

The Fourth Amendment permits PartnerRe to effect payment of an extraordinary cash dividend (or, as applicable, a cash payment) in an amount of \$11.50 in respect of each common share of PartnerRe that, immediately prior to the effective time, is either issued and outstanding or underlies certain share-based equity awards granted by PartnerRe to certain of its directors and employees. The extraordinary cash dividend will be paid at or immediately following the effective time of the amalgamation, although the declaration and payment of such dividend is conditioned upon the consummation of the amalgamation. PartnerRe will also equitably adjust the exercise price of and, if applicable, the number of PartnerRe common shares covered by, each vested and unvested option and share appreciation right to account for the extraordinary cash dividend.

Upon the terms and subject to the conditions of the Fourth Amendment, PartnerRe and AXIS have also agreed, among other matters, to:

Revise the termination fee payable by either PartnerRe or AXIS to the other, under certain specified circumstances (including in connection with a Superior Proposal as defined in the Amalgamation Agreement), from \$250 million to \$280 million

Make various other changes, including amending the definition of Superior Proposal and eliminating the respective right of PartnerRe or AXIS to approve public communications of the other concerning unsolicited Acquisition Proposals.

The foregoing description of the Fourth Amendment does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of the Fourth Amendment, which is attached hereto as Exhibit 2.1 and incorporated by reference herein.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits

| Exhibit No. | Description |
|--------------------|--|
| 2.1 | Fourth Amendment to the Agreement and Plan of Amalgamation, dated as of May 3, 2015, by and between PartnerRe Ltd. and AXIS Capital Holdings Limited |

Important Information For Investors And Stockholders

This communication does not constitute an offer to buy or sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy or sell any securities or a solicitation of any vote or approval. This communication relates to a proposed business combination between PartnerRe Ltd. (**PartnerRe**) and AXIS Capital Holdings Limited (**AXIS**). In connection with this proposed business combination, PartnerRe and/or AXIS may file one or more proxy statements, registration statements, proxy statement/prospectus or other documents with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the **SEC**). This communication is not a substitute for any proxy statement, registration statement, proxy statement/prospectus or other document PartnerRe and/or AXIS may file with the SEC in connection with the proposed transaction. **INVESTORS AND SECURITY HOLDERS OF PARTNERRE AND AXIS ARE URGED TO READ THE PROXY STATEMENT(S), REGISTRATION STATEMENT(S), PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS THAT MAY BE FILED WITH THE SEC CAREFULLY AND IN THEIR ENTIRETY IF AND WHEN THEY BECOME AVAILABLE BECAUSE THEY WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION.** Any definitive proxy statement(s) (if and when available) will be mailed to stockholders of PartnerRe and/or AXIS, as applicable. Investors and security holders will be able to obtain free copies of these documents (if and when available) and other documents filed with the SEC by PartnerRe and/or AXIS through the website maintained by the SEC at <http://www.sec.gov>. Copies of the documents filed with the SEC by PartnerRe will be available free of charge on PartnerRe's internet website at <http://www.partnerre.com> or by contacting PartnerRe's Investor Relations Director by email at robin.sidders@partnerre.com or by phone at 1-441-294-5216. Copies of the documents filed with the SEC by AXIS will be available free of charge on AXIS' internet website at <http://www.axiscapital.com> or by contacting AXIS Investor Relations Contact by email at linda.ventresca@axiscapital.com or by phone at 1-441-405-2727.

Participants in Solicitation

PartnerRe, AXIS, their respective directors and certain of their respective executive officers may be considered participants in the solicitation of proxies in connection with the proposed transaction. Information about the directors and executive officers of PartnerRe is set forth in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, which was filed with the SEC on February 26, 2015, its proxy statement for its 2014 annual meeting of stockholders, which was filed with the SEC on April 1, 2014, its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2015, which was filed with the SEC on October 31, 2014 and its Current Reports on Form 8-K, which were filed with the SEC on March 27, 2014, May 16, 2014 and January 29, 2015. Information about the directors and executive officers of AXIS is set forth in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, which was filed with the SEC on February 23, 2015, its proxy statement for its 2014 annual meeting of stockholders, which was filed with the SEC on March 28, 2014, its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2015, which was filed with the SEC on October 31, 2014 and its Current Reports on Form 8-K, which were filed with the SEC on March 11, 2015, January 29, 2015, August 7, 2014, June 26, 2014, March 27, 2014 and February 26, 2014.

These documents can be obtained free of charge from the sources indicated above. Additional information regarding the participants in the proxy solicitations and a description of their direct and indirect interests, by security holdings or otherwise, will be contained in the proxy statement/prospectus and other relevant materials to be filed with the SEC when they become available.

Forward Looking Statements

Certain statements in this communication regarding the proposed transaction between PartnerRe and AXIS are forward-looking statements. The words anticipate, believe, ensure, expect, if, intend, estimate, probable, forecasts, predict, outlook, aim, will, could, should, would, potential, may, might, anticipate, strategy, and similar expressions, and the negative thereof, are intended to identify forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements, which are subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions about PartnerRe and AXIS, may

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include projections of their respective future financial performance, their respective anticipated growth strategies and anticipated trends in their respective businesses. These statements are only predictions based on current expectations and projections about future events. There are important factors that could cause actual results, level of activity, performance or achievements to differ materially from the results, level of activity, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements, including the risk factors set forth in PartnerRe's and AXIS most recent reports on Form 10-K, Form 10-Q and other documents on file with the SEC and the factors given below:

the failure to obtain the approval of shareholders of PartnerRe or AXIS in connection with the proposed transaction;

the failure to consummate or delay in consummating the proposed transaction for other reasons;

the timing to consummate the proposed transaction;

the risk that a condition to closing of the proposed transaction may not be satisfied;

the risk that a regulatory approval that may be required for the proposed transaction is delayed, is not obtained, or is obtained subject to conditions that are not anticipated;

AXIS or PartnerRe's ability to achieve the synergies and value creation contemplated by the proposed transaction;

the ability of either PartnerRe or AXIS to effectively integrate their businesses; and

the diversion of management time on transaction-related issues.

PartnerRe's forward-looking statements are based on assumptions that PartnerRe believes to be reasonable but that may not prove to be accurate. AXIS' forward-looking statements are based on assumptions that AXIS believes to be reasonable but that may not prove to be accurate. Neither PartnerRe nor AXIS can guarantee future results, level of activity, performance or achievements. Moreover, neither PartnerRe nor AXIS assumes responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of any of these forward-looking statements. PartnerRe and AXIS assume no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as may be required by law. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements that speak only as of the date hereof.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Dated: May 6, 2015

AXIS CAPITAL HOLDINGS LIMITED

By: /s/ Richard T. Gieryn, Jr.

Richard T. Gieryn, Jr.

General Counsel

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