

ARES CAPITAL CORP  
Form 497  
August 08, 2017

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**Filed Pursuant to Rule 497  
Registration No. 333-212142**

**PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT**  
(To Prospectus dated August 4, 2017)

**\$750,000,000**

**3.500% Notes due 2023**

We are offering \$750,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of 3.500% notes due 2023, which we refer to as the Notes. The Notes will mature on February 10, 2023. We will pay interest on the Notes on February 10 and August 10 of each year, beginning February 10, 2018. We may redeem the Notes in whole or in part at any time or from time to time at the redemption price discussed under the caption "Description of Notes - Optional Redemption" in this prospectus supplement. In addition, holders of the Notes can require us to repurchase the Notes at 100% of their principal amount upon the occurrence of a Change of Control Repurchase Event (as defined herein). The Notes will be issued in minimum denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof.

The Notes will be our direct senior unsecured obligations and rank pari passu, or equally, with all outstanding and future unsecured unsubordinated indebtedness issued by Ares Capital Corporation.

Ares Capital Corporation is a specialty finance company that is a closed-end, non-diversified management investment company incorporated in Maryland. We have elected to be regulated as a business development company under the Investment Company Act of 1940. Our investment objective is to generate both current income and capital appreciation through debt and equity investments. We invest primarily in first lien senior secured loans (including "unitranche" loans, which are loans that combine both senior and mezzanine debt, generally in a first lien position), second lien senior secured loans and mezzanine debt, which in some cases includes an equity component. To a lesser extent, we also make preferred and/or common equity investments.

We are externally managed by our investment adviser, Ares Capital Management LLC, a subsidiary of Ares Management, L.P., a publicly traded, leading global alternative asset manager. Ares Operations LLC, a subsidiary of Ares Management, L.P., provides certain administrative and other services necessary for us to operate.

**Investing in the Notes involves risks that are described in the "Risk Factors" section beginning on page S-13 of this prospectus supplement and page 25 of the accompanying prospectus, including the risk of leverage.**

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus concisely provide important information about us that you should know before investing in the Notes. Please read this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus before you invest and keep it for future reference. We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. This information is

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available free of charge by calling us collect at (310) 201-4200 or on our website at [www.arescapitalcorp.com](http://www.arescapitalcorp.com). The SEC also maintains a website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) that contains such information. The information on the websites referred to herein is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

	Per Note	Total
Public offering price(1)	99.921%	\$749,407,500
Underwriting discount (sales load)	0.700%	\$5,250,000
Proceeds, before expenses, to Ares Capital Corporation(2)	99.221%	\$744,157,500

(1) The public offering price set forth above does not include accrued interest, if any. Interest on the Notes will accrue from August 10, 2017 and must be paid by the purchaser if the Notes are delivered after August 10, 2017.

(2) Before deducting expenses payable by us related to this offering, estimated at \$2.0 million.

**THE NOTES ARE NOT DEPOSITS OR OTHER OBLIGATIONS OF A BANK AND ARE NOT INSURED BY THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION OR ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY.**

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Delivery of the Notes in book-entry form only through The Depository Trust Company will be made on or about August 10, 2017.

**BofA Merrill Lynch**

**J.P. Morgan**

**SunTrust Robinson Humphrey**

**RBC Capital Markets**

Barclays	BMO Capital Markets	Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC	Mizuho Securities	Morgan Stanley	Wells Fargo Securities
BNY Mellon Capital Markets, LLC	Capital One Securities	Citigroup	Comerica Securities	Credit Suisse	HSBC
ICBC Standard Bank	Keefe, Bruyette & Woods	MUFG	Santander	SMBC Nikko	US Bancorp
	<i>A Stifel Company</i>				

The date of this prospectus supplement is August 7, 2017.

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You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not, and the underwriters are not, making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is accurate only as of the date on the front cover of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus, as applicable. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date. This prospectus supplement may add, update or change information contained in the accompanying prospectus. If information in this prospectus supplement is inconsistent with the accompanying prospectus, this prospectus supplement will apply and will supersede that information in the accompanying prospectus.

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**FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

*Some of the statements in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus constitute forward-looking statements, which relate to future events or our future performance or financial condition. The forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus involve a number of risks and uncertainties, including statements concerning:*

our, or our portfolio companies', future business, operations, operating results or prospects;

the return or impact of current and future investments;

the impact of a protracted decline in the liquidity of credit markets on our business;

the impact of fluctuations in interest rates on our business;

the impact of changes in laws or regulations (including the interpretation thereof) governing our operations or the operations of our portfolio companies or the operations of our competitors;

the valuation of our investments in portfolio companies, particularly those having no liquid trading market;

our ability to successfully integrate our business with the business of American Capital (as defined below), including rotating out of certain investments acquired in connection therewith and re-deploying such capital effectively and on favorable terms;

our ability to recover unrealized losses;

our ability to successfully invest any capital raised in this offering;

market conditions and our ability to access alternative debt markets and additional debt and equity capital and our ability to manage our capital resources effectively;

our contractual arrangements and relationships with third parties, including parties to our co-investment programs;

the general economy and its impact on the industries in which we invest;

uncertainty surrounding the financial stability of the United States, Europe and China;

the social, geopolitical, financial, trade and legal implications of Brexit;

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Middle East turmoil and the potential for volatility in energy prices and its impact on the industries in which we invest;

the financial condition of and ability of our current and prospective portfolio companies to achieve their objectives;

our expected financings and investments;

our ability to successfully complete and integrate any other acquisitions;

the outcome and impact of any litigation or other regulatory matters acquired in connection with the American Capital Acquisition (as defined below);

the impact to the periods following the completion of the American Capital Acquisition;

the adequacy of our cash resources and working capital;

the timing, form and amount of any dividend distributions;

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

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the ability of our investment adviser to locate suitable investments for us and to monitor and administer our investments.

We use words such as "anticipates," "believes," "expects," "intends," "will," "should," "may" and similar expressions to identify forward-looking statements, although not all forward-looking statements include these words. Our actual results and condition could differ materially from those implied or expressed in the forward-looking statements for any reason, including the factors set forth in "Risk Factors" in this prospectus supplement and in the accompanying prospectus and the other information included in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

We have based the forward-looking statements included in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus on information available to us as of their respective dates, and we assume no obligation to update any such forward-looking statements. Although we undertake no obligation to revise or update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, you are advised to consult any additional disclosures that we may make directly to you or through reports that we have filed or in the future may file with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), including annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K.

The forward-looking statements in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are excluded from the safe harbor protection provided by Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act") and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act").

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**THE COMPANY**

*This summary highlights some of the information contained elsewhere in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying 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" in this prospectus supplement and in the accompanying prospectus and the other information included in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Except where the context suggests otherwise, the terms "we," "us," "our," "the Company" and "Ares Capital" refer to Ares Capital Corporation and its consolidated subsidiaries; "Ares Capital Management" and "our investment adviser" refer to Ares Capital Management LLC; "Ares Operations" and "our administrator" refer to Ares Operations LLC; and "Ares" and "Ares Management" refer to Ares Management, L.P. and its affiliated companies (other than portfolio companies of its affiliated funds).*

**Overview**

Ares Capital, a Maryland corporation, is a specialty finance company that is a closed-end, non-diversified management investment company. We have elected to be regulated as a business development company, or a "BDC," under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder or the "Investment Company Act." We were founded on April 16, 2004, were initially funded on June 23, 2004 and completed our initial public offering on October 8, 2004. As of June 30, 2017, we were the largest BDC with approximately \$12.3 billion of total assets.

We are externally managed by our investment adviser, Ares Capital Management, a subsidiary of Ares Management, a publicly traded, leading global alternative asset manager. Our administrator, Ares Operations, a subsidiary of Ares Management, provides certain administrative and other services necessary for us to operate.

Our investment objective is to generate both current income and capital appreciation through debt and equity investments. 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. However, we may from time to time invest in larger or smaller (in particular, for investments in early stage and/or venture capital-backed) companies. We generally use the term "middle-market" to refer to companies with annual EBITDA between \$10 million and \$250 million. As used herein, EBITDA represents net income before net interest expense, income tax expense, depreciation and amortization.

We invest primarily in first lien senior secured loans (including "unitranche" loans, which are loans that combine both senior and mezzanine debt, generally in a first lien position), second lien senior secured loans and mezzanine debt, which in some cases includes an equity component. First and second lien senior secured loans generally are senior debt instruments that rank ahead of subordinated debt of a given portfolio company. Mezzanine debt is subordinated to senior loans and is generally unsecured. Our investments in corporate borrowers generally range between \$30 million and \$500 million each, investments in project finance/power generation projects generally range between \$10 million and \$200 million each and investments in early-stage and/or venture capital-backed companies generally range between \$1 million and \$25 million each. However, the investment sizes may be more or less than these ranges and may vary based on, among other things, our capital availability, the composition of our portfolio and general micro- and macro-economic factors.

To a lesser extent, we also make preferred and/or common equity investments, which have generally been non-control equity investments of less than \$20 million (usually in conjunction with a concurrent debt investment). However, we may increase the size or change the nature of these investments. Also, as a result of the American Capital Acquisition (as defined below), American Capital's equity investments, including equity investments pursuant to which American Capital controlled a particular portfolio company, became part of our portfolio.



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The proportion of these types of investments will change over time given our views on, among other things, the economic and credit environment in which we are operating. In connection with our investing activities, we may make commitments with respect to indebtedness or securities of a potential portfolio company substantially in excess of our final investment. In such situations, while we may initially agree to fund up to a certain dollar amount of an investment, we may subsequently syndicate or sell a portion of such amount (including, without limitation, to vehicles managed by our portfolio company, Ivy Hill Asset Management, L.P. ("IHAM")), such that we are left with a smaller investment than what was reflected in our original commitment. In addition to originating investments, we may also acquire investments in the secondary market (including purchases of a portfolio of investments).

The first and second lien senior secured loans in which we invest generally have stated terms of three to 10 years and the mezzanine debt investments in which we invest generally have stated terms of up to 10 years, but the expected average life of such first and second lien loans and mezzanine debt is generally between three and seven years. However, we may invest in loans and securities with any maturity or duration. The instruments in which we invest typically are not rated by any rating agency, but we believe that if such instruments were rated, they would be below investment grade (rated lower than "Baa3" by Moody's Investors Service, lower than "BBB " by Fitch Ratings or lower than "BBB " by Standard & Poor's Ratings Services), which, under the guidelines established by these entities, is an indication of having predominantly speculative characteristics with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay interest and repay principal. Bonds that are rated below investment grade are sometimes referred to as "high yield bonds" or "junk bonds." We may invest without limit in debt or other securities of any rating, as well as debt or other securities that have not been rated by any nationally recognized statistical rating organization.

We believe that our investment adviser, Ares Capital Management, is able to leverage the current investment platform, resources and existing relationships of Ares Management with financial sponsors, financial institutions, hedge funds and other investment firms to provide us with attractive investment opportunities. In addition to deal flow, the Ares investment platform assists our investment adviser in analyzing, structuring and monitoring investments. Ares has been in existence for over 15 years and its partners have an average of over 24 years of experience in leveraged finance, private equity, distressed debt, commercial real estate finance, investment banking and capital markets. We have access to Ares' investment professionals and administrative professionals, who provide assistance in accounting, finance, legal, compliance, operations, information technology and investor relations. As of June 30, 2017, Ares had approximately 380 investment professionals and approximately 590 administrative professionals.

While our primary focus is to generate current income and capital appreciation through investments in first and second lien senior secured loans and mezzanine debt and, to a lesser extent, equity securities of eligible portfolio companies, we also may invest up to 30% of our portfolio in non-qualifying assets, as permitted by the Investment Company Act. See "Regulation" in the accompanying prospectus. Specifically, as part of this 30% basket, we may invest in entities that are not considered "eligible portfolio companies" (as defined in the Investment Company Act), including companies located outside of the United States, entities that are operating pursuant to certain exceptions under the Investment Company Act, and publicly traded entities whose public equity market capitalization exceeds the levels provided for under the Investment Company Act.

In the first quarter of 2011, the staff of the SEC (the "Staff") informally communicated to certain BDCs the Staff's belief that certain entities, which would be classified as an "investment company" under the Investment Company Act but for the exception from the definition of "investment company" set forth in Rule 3a-7 promulgated under the Investment Company Act, could not be treated as "eligible portfolio companies" (as defined in Section 2(a)(46) under the Investment Company Act) (i.e., not eligible to be included in a BDC's 70% "qualifying assets" basket). Subsequently, in August 2011 the SEC issued a concept release (the "Concept Release") which stated that "[a]s a general

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matter, the Commission presently does not believe that Rule 3a-7 issuers are the type of small, developing and financially troubled businesses in which the U.S. Congress intended BDCs primarily to invest" and requested comment on whether or not a 3a-7 issuer should be considered an "eligible portfolio company." We provided a comment letter in respect of the Concept Release and continue to believe that the language of Section 2(a)(46) of the Investment Company Act permits a BDC to treat as "eligible portfolio companies" entities that rely on the 3a-7 exception. However, given the current uncertainty in this area (including the language in the Concept Release) and subsequent discussions with the Staff, we have, solely for purposes of calculating the composition of our portfolio pursuant to Section 55(a) of the Investment Company Act, identified such entities, which include the SSLP (as defined below), as "non-qualifying assets" should the Staff ultimately disagree with our position.

**The American Capital Acquisition**

On January 3, 2017, we completed our acquisition (the "American Capital Acquisition") of American Capital, Ltd. ("American Capital") in a cash and stock transaction valued at approximately \$4.2 billion. In connection with the stock consideration, we issued approximately 112 million shares of our common stock to American Capital's then-existing stockholders (including holders of outstanding in-the-money American Capital stock options), thereby resulting in our then-existing stockholders owning approximately 73.7% of the combined company and then-existing American Capital stockholders owning approximately 26.3% of the combined company. See Note 14 to our consolidated financial statements for the three and six months ended June 30, 2017 and Note 16 to our consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2016 for additional information regarding the American Capital Acquisition.

In connection with the American Capital Acquisition, Ares Capital Management has agreed to waive up to \$100 million in income based fees from us for the first ten calendar quarters beginning with the second quarter of 2017, in an amount equal to the lesser of (1) \$10 million of the income based fees and (2) the amount of income based fees for each such quarter, in each case, to the extent earned and payable by us in such quarter pursuant to and as calculated under our investment advisory and management agreement.

**Co-Investment Programs**

*Senior Direct Lending Program*

We established a joint venture with Varagon Capital Partners ("Varagon") to make certain first lien senior secured loans, including certain stretch senior and unitranche loans, primarily to U.S. middle-market companies. Varagon was formed in 2013 as a lending platform by American International Group, Inc. (NYSE:AIG) and other partners. The joint venture is called the Senior Direct Lending Program (the "SDLP"). The SDLP may generally commit and hold individual loans of up to \$300 million. We may directly co-invest with the SDLP to accommodate larger transactions. The SDLP is capitalized as transactions are completed and all portfolio decisions and generally all other decisions in respect of the SDLP must be approved by an investment committee of the SDLP consisting of representatives of the Company and Varagon (with approval from a representative of each required).

We provide capital to the SDLP in the form of subordinated certificates (the "SDLP Certificates"), and Varagon and its clients provide capital to the SDLP in the form of senior notes, intermediate funding notes and SDLP Certificates. As of June 30, 2017, we and a client of Varagon owned 87.5% and 12.5%, respectively, of the outstanding SDLP Certificates.

As of June 30, 2017, we and Varagon and its clients have agreed to make capital available to the SDLP of \$2.9 billion in the aggregate, of which approximately \$1.9 billion has been funded. As of June 30, 2017, we agreed to make available to the SDLP (subject to the approval of the investment committee of the SDLP as described above) \$591 million, of which \$394 million was funded. As of

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June 30, 2017, the SDLP had commitments to fund delayed draw loans to certain of its portfolio companies of \$173 million, which had been approved by the investment committee of the SDLP as described above, of which \$36 million was committed by us. As of June 30, 2017, the amortized cost and fair value of the SDLP Certificates held by us were \$394 million and \$394 million, respectively, which represented approximately 3.4% of our total portfolio at fair value. As of June 30, 2017, the SDLP had 17 different underlying borrowers. For more information on the SDLP, see "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Portfolio and Investment Activity Senior Direct Lending Program" in the accompanying prospectus.

***Senior Secured Loan Program***

We and General Electric Capital Corporation ("GECC") and GE Global Sponsor Finance LLC (collectively, "GE") have co-invested in first lien senior secured loans of middle market companies through an unconsolidated Delaware limited liability company, the Senior Secured Loan Fund LLC (d/b/a "the Senior Secured Loan Program") or the SSLP (the "SSLP"). The SSLP has been capitalized as transactions are completed. All portfolio decisions and generally all other decisions in respect of the SSLP must be approved by an investment committee of the SSLP consisting of our representatives and the representatives of GE (with approval from a representative of each required). We have provided capital to the SSLP in the form of subordinated certificates (the "SSLP Certificates").

In August 2015, GE completed the sale of its U.S. Sponsor Finance business, through which GE had participated with us in the SSLP, to Canada Pension Plan Investment Board. This sale excluded GE's interest in the SSLP, and we and GE continue to operate the SSLP. We and GE no longer have an obligation to present senior secured lending investment opportunities to the SSLP and since June 30, 2015, the SSLP has not made any investments related to new portfolio companies. On August 24, 2015, we were advised that GECC, as the holder of the senior notes of the SSLP (the "Senior Notes"), directed State Street Bank and Trust Company, as trustee of the Senior Notes and the SSLP Certificates, pursuant to the terms of the indenture governing the Senior Notes and the SSLP Certificates, to apply all principal proceeds received by the SSLP from its investments to the repayment of the outstanding principal amount of the Senior Notes until paid in full (prior to the distribution of any such principal proceeds to the holders of the SSLP Certificates, which includes us). GECC had previously elected to waive its right to receive priority repayments on the Senior Notes from principal proceeds in most circumstances.

As of June 30, 2017, we and GE had outstanding amounts funded of approximately \$2.9 billion in aggregate principal amount to the SSLP. As of June 30, 2017, the SSLP had commitments to fund delayed draw loans to certain of its portfolio companies of \$50 million, which had been approved by the investment committee of the SSLP as described above. As of June 30, 2017, we had funded approximately \$2.0 billion in aggregate principal amount to the SSLP. Additionally, as of June 30, 2017, we had commitments to co-invest in the SSLP for our portion of the SSLP's commitments to fund delayed draw loans to portfolio companies of up to \$7 million. As of June 30, 2017, the amortized cost and fair value of the SSLP Certificates held by us were \$1.9 billion and \$1.9 billion (including unrealized depreciation of \$18 million), respectively, which represented approximately 16.7% of our total portfolio at fair value. As of June 30, 2017, the SSLP had 11 different underlying borrowers. For more information on the SSLP, see "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Portfolio and Investment Activity Senior Secured Loan Program" in the accompanying prospectus and "Recent Developments."

**Ivy Hill Asset Management, L.P.**

As of June 30, 2017, our portfolio company, IHAM, an SEC-registered investment adviser, managed 23 vehicles and served as the sub-manager/sub-servicer for two other vehicles (such vehicles,

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the "IHAM Vehicles"). As of June 30, 2017, IHAM had assets under management of approximately \$4.3 billion. As of June 30, 2017, Ares Capital had invested approximately \$244 million (at amortized cost) in IHAM. In connection with IHAM's registration as a registered investment adviser, on March 30, 2012, we received exemptive relief from the SEC allowing us to, subject to certain conditions, own directly or indirectly up to 100% of IHAM's outstanding equity interests and make additional investments in IHAM. From time to time, IHAM or certain IHAM Vehicles may purchase investments from us or sell investments to us, in each case for a price equal to the fair market value of such investments determined at the time of such transactions.

On May 19, 2017, pursuant to approval granted at a special meeting of stockholders of American Capital Senior Floating, Ltd. ("ACSF"), IHAM entered into a new management agreement with ACSF, a Maryland corporation that has elected to be regulated as a BDC under the Investment Company Act, pursuant to which IHAM serves as ACSF's investment adviser.

See Note 4 to our consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2016 and the three and six months ended June 30, 2017 for more information about IHAM and Note 16 to our consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2016 and Note 14 to our consolidated financial statements for the three and six months ended June 30, 2017 for information related to IHAM's role in the American Capital Acquisition.

**Ares Capital Management LLC**

Ares Capital Management, our investment adviser, is served by an origination, investment and portfolio management team of approximately 100 U.S.-based investment professionals as of June 30, 2017 and led by certain partners of the Ares Credit Group: Michael Arougheti, Kipp deVeer, Mitchell Goldstein and Michael Smith. Ares Capital Management leverages off of Ares' investment platform and benefits from the significant capital markets, trading and research expertise of Ares' investment professionals. Ares Capital Management's investment committee has eight members comprised of certain of the U.S.-based partners of the Ares Credit Group.

**Recent Developments**

As of June 30, 2017, our investment in the SSLP Certificates at amortized cost and fair value was \$1.9 billion and \$1.9 billion, respectively. As of June 30, 2017, the SSLP had \$1.2 billion in cash and GE's Senior Notes outstanding totaled \$601 million. In early July 2017, the SSLP made its monthly waterfall distribution from this cash, which fully repaid GE's Senior Notes and included distributions to the SSLP Certificates. From this distribution, our SSLP Certificates received \$474 million. After this distribution, our amortized cost in our SSLP Certificates was \$1.5 billion.

In addition, in July 2017, we and GE agreed to an early termination of the SSLP whereby on July 26, 2017, we purchased the remaining \$1.6 billion in aggregate principal amount of first lien senior secured loans outstanding at par plus accrued and unpaid interest and fees from the SSLP (the "SSLP Loan Sale") and assumed the SSLP's remaining unfunded loan commitments totaling \$50 million. Upon completion of the SSLP Loan Sale, the SSLP made a liquidation distribution to the SSLP Certificates (the "Liquidation Distribution"), of which we received \$1.5 billion. In connection with the Liquidation Distribution, we recognized an \$18 million net realized loss as a result of the early termination. After completion of the transactions above, the operations of the SSLP were effectively terminated pursuant to the terms of the documents governing the SSLP and the SSLP will no longer have an obligation to fund existing commitments and other amounts to its former portfolio companies.

Excluding the loans acquired from the SSLP described above, from July 1, 2017 through July 26, 2017, we made new investment commitments of approximately \$128 million, of which \$101 million were funded. Of these new commitments, 99% were in first lien senior secured loans and 1% were in investments in the SDLP Certificates to make co-investments with Varagon and its clients

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in floating rate first lien senior secured loans through the SDLP. Of the approximately \$128 million of new investment commitments, 100% were floating rate. The weighted average yield of debt and other income producing securities funded during the period at amortized cost was 7.6%. We may seek to sell all or a portion of these new investment commitments, although there can be no assurance that we will be able to do so.

Excluding the repayments of the SSLP Certificates described above, from July 1, 2017 through July 26, 2017, we exited approximately \$327 million of investment commitments, including \$276 million of investment commitments acquired in the American Capital Acquisition. Of the total investment commitments, 46% were other equity securities, 25% were second lien senior secured loans, 13% were preferred equity securities, 13% were first lien senior secured loans, 1% were senior subordinated loans, 1% were collateralized loan obligations and 1% were investments in the SDLP Certificates. Of the approximately \$327 million of exited investment commitments, 59% were non-interest bearing, 40% were floating rate and 1% were fixed rate. The weighted average yield of debt and other income producing securities exited or repaid during the period at amortized cost was 9.6% and the weighted average yield on total investments exited or repaid during the period at amortized cost was 4.1%. On the approximately \$327 million of investment commitments exited from July 1, 2017 through July 26, 2017, we recognized total net realized gains of approximately \$61 million, including net realized gains of approximately \$60 million on investment commitments exited that were acquired in the American Capital Acquisition.

In addition, as of July 26, 2017, we had an investment backlog and pipeline of approximately \$530 million and \$325 million, respectively. Investment backlog includes transactions approved by our investment adviser's investment committee and/or for which a formal mandate, letter of intent or a signed commitment have been issued, and therefore we believe are likely to close. Investment pipeline includes transactions where due diligence and analysis are in process, but no formal mandate, letter of intent or signed commitment have been issued. The consummation of any of the investments in this backlog and pipeline depends upon, among other things, one or more of the following: satisfactory completion of our due diligence investigation of the prospective portfolio company, our acceptance of the terms and structure of such investment and the execution and delivery of satisfactory transaction documentation. In addition, we may sell all or a portion of these investments and certain of these investments may result in the repayment of existing investments. We cannot assure you that we will make any of these investments or that we will sell all or any portion of these investments.

**Our Corporate Information**

Our administrative offices are located at 2000 Avenue of the Stars, 12th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90067, telephone number (310) 201-4200, and our executive offices are located at 245 Park Avenue, 44th Floor, New York, New York 10167, telephone number (212) 750-7300.

Table of Contents**SPECIFIC TERMS OF THE NOTES AND THE OFFERING**

*This prospectus supplement sets forth certain terms of the Notes that we are offering pursuant to this prospectus supplement and supplements the accompanying prospectus that is attached to the back of this prospectus supplement. This section outlines the specific legal and financial terms of the Notes. You should read this section together with the more general description of the Notes under the heading "Description of Notes" in this prospectus supplement and in the accompanying prospectus under the heading "Description of Our Debt Securities" before investing in the Notes. Capitalized terms used in this prospectus supplement and not otherwise defined shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the accompanying prospectus or in the indenture governing the Notes (as amended from time to time, the "indenture").*

Issuer	Ares Capital Corporation
Title of the Securities	3.500% Notes due 2023
Initial Aggregate Principal Amount Being Offered	\$750,000,000
Initial Public Offering Price	99.921% of the aggregate principal amount of Notes
Interest Rate	3.500%
Yield to Maturity	3.516%
Trade Date	August 7, 2017
Issue Date	August 10, 2017
Maturity Date	February 10, 2023
Interest Payment Dates	February 10 and August 10, commencing February 10, 2018
Ranking of Notes	The Notes will be our general unsecured obligations that rank senior in right of payment to all of our future indebtedness that is expressly subordinated, or junior, in right of payment to the Notes. The Notes will rank pari passu, or equally, in right of payment with all of our existing and future senior liabilities that are not so subordinated, or junior, effectively subordinated, or junior, to any of our secured indebtedness (including unsecured indebtedness that we later secure) to the extent of the value of the assets securing such indebtedness, and structurally subordinated, or junior, to all existing and future indebtedness (including trade payables) incurred by our subsidiaries, financing vehicles or similar facilities. As of July 26, 2017, our total consolidated indebtedness was approximately \$4.3 billion principal amount, of which approximately \$395.0 million was secured indebtedness at the Ares Capital level, and of which an aggregate of approximately \$755.0 million was indebtedness of our subsidiaries. After giving effect to the issuance of the Notes and assuming the proceeds therefrom are used to repay outstanding borrowings under our \$2.1 billion revolving credit facility (the "Revolving Credit Facility"), the \$1.0 billion revolving funding facility of our consolidated subsidiary, Ares Capital CP Funding LLC (the "Revolving Funding Facility"), and/or the \$400.0 million revolving

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	<p>funding facility of our consolidated subsidiary, Ares Capital JB Funding LLC (the "SMBC Funding Facility" and, together with the Revolving Credit Facility and the Revolving Funding Facility, the "Facilities"), our total consolidated indebtedness would have been approximately \$4.3 billion principal amount as of July 26, 2017. See "Capitalization."</p>
Denominations	<p>We will issue the Notes in denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof.</p>
Optional Redemption	<p>We may redeem some or all of the Notes at any time, or from time to time, at a redemption price equal to the greater of (1) 100% of the principal amount of the Notes to be redeemed or (2) the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest (exclusive of accrued and unpaid interest to the date of redemption) on the Notes to be redeemed, discounted to the redemption date on a semi-annual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) using the applicable Treasury Rate plus 30 basis points, plus, in each case, accrued and unpaid interest to the redemption date; <i>provided</i>, however, that if we redeem any Notes on or after January 10, 2023 (the date falling one month prior to the maturity date of the Notes), the redemption price for the Notes will be equal to 100% of the principal amount of the Notes to be redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to, but excluding, the date of redemption.</p>
Sinking Fund	<p>The Notes will not be subject to any sinking fund. A sinking fund is a reserve fund accumulated over a period of time for the retirement of debt.</p>
Offer to Purchase upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event	<p>If a Change of Control Repurchase Event occurs prior to maturity, holders will have the right, at their option, to require us to repurchase for cash some or all of the Notes at a repurchase price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the Notes being repurchased, plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but not including, the repurchase date.</p>
Legal Defeasance	<p>The Notes are subject to legal defeasance by us, which means that, subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions, including, but not limited to, (i) depositing in trust for the benefit of the holders of the Notes a combination of money and/or U.S. government or U.S. government agency notes or bonds that will generate enough cash to make interest, principal and any other payments on the Notes on their various due dates and (ii) delivering to the Trustee an opinion of counsel as described herein under "Description of Notes Satisfaction and Discharge; Defeasance," we can legally release ourselves from all payment and other obligations on the Notes.</p>

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Covenant Defeasance	The Notes are subject to covenant defeasance by us, which means that, subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions, including, but not limited to, (i) depositing in trust for the benefit of the holders of the Notes a combination of money and/or U.S. government or U.S. government agency notes or bonds that will generate enough cash to make interest, principal and any other payments on the Notes on their various due dates and (ii) delivering to the Trustee an opinion of counsel as described herein under "Description of Notes Satisfaction and Discharge; Defeasance," we will be released from some of the restrictive covenants in the indenture.
Form of Notes	The Notes will be represented by global securities that will be deposited and registered in the name of The Depository Trust Company ("DTC") or its nominee. This means that, except in limited circumstances, you will not receive certificates for the Notes. Beneficial interests in the Notes will be represented through book-entry accounts of financial institutions acting on behalf of beneficial owners as direct and indirect participants in DTC. Investors may elect to hold interests in the Notes through either DTC, if they are a participant, or indirectly through organizations that are participants in DTC.
Trustee, Paying Agent, Registrar and Transfer Agent	U.S. Bank National Association
Events of Default	If an event of default (as described herein under "Description of Notes") on the Notes occurs, the principal amount of the Notes, plus accrued and unpaid interest, may be declared immediately due and payable, subject to conditions set forth in the indenture. These amounts automatically become due and payable in the case of certain types of bankruptcy or insolvency events involving us.
Other Covenants	In addition to the covenants described in the accompanying prospectus, the following covenants shall apply to the Notes:

We agree that for the period of time during which the Notes are outstanding, we will not violate, whether or not we are subject to, Section 18(a)(1)(A) as modified by Section 61(a)(1) of the Investment Company Act or any successor provisions, giving effect to any exemptive relief granted to us by the SEC.

If, at any time, we are not subject to the reporting requirements of Sections 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act to file any periodic reports with the SEC, we agree to furnish to holders of the Notes and the trustee, for the period of time during which the Notes are outstanding, our audited annual consolidated financial statements, within 90 days of our fiscal year end, and unaudited interim consolidated financial statements, within 45 days of our fiscal quarter end (other than our fourth fiscal quarter). All such financial statements will be prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with applicable United States generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP").



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No Established Trading Market	The Notes are a new issue of securities with no established trading market. The Notes will not be listed on any securities exchange or quoted on any automated dealer quotation system. Although the underwriters have informed us that they intend to make a market in the Notes, as permitted by applicable laws and regulations, they are not obligated to do so and may discontinue any such market making activities at any time without notice. See "Underwriting." Accordingly, we cannot assure you that a liquid market for the Notes will develop or be maintained.
Global Clearance and Settlement Procedures	Interests in the Notes will trade in DTC's Same Day Funds Settlement System, and any permitted secondary market trading activity in such Notes will, therefore, be required by DTC to be settled in immediately available funds. None of the Company, the trustee or the paying agent will have any responsibility for the performance by DTC or its participants or indirect participants of their respective obligations under the rules and procedures governing their operations.
Governing Law	The Notes and the indenture will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

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**RISK FACTORS**

*You should carefully consider the risk factors described below and under the caption "Risk Factors" in the accompanying prospectus, together with all of the other information included in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including our consolidated financial statements and the related notes thereto, before you decide whether to make an investment in our securities. The risks set out below are not the only risks we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently deem to be immaterial also may materially adversely affect our business, financial condition and/or operating results. If any of the following events occur, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially adversely affected.*

**RISKS RELATING TO THE NOTES**

**The Notes will be unsecured and therefore will be effectively subordinated to any secured indebtedness we have currently incurred or may incur in the future.**

The Notes will not be secured by any of our assets or any of the assets of our subsidiaries. As a result, the Notes are effectively subordinated, or junior, to any secured indebtedness we or our subsidiaries have currently incurred and may incur in the future (or any indebtedness that is initially unsecured to which we subsequently grant security) to the extent of the value of the assets securing such indebtedness. In any liquidation, dissolution, bankruptcy or other similar proceeding, the holders of any of our existing or future secured indebtedness and the secured indebtedness of our subsidiaries may assert rights against the assets pledged to secure that indebtedness in order to receive full payment of their indebtedness before the assets may be used to pay other creditors, including the holders of the Notes. As of July 26, 2017, we had \$395.0 million aggregate principal amount of outstanding indebtedness under the Revolving Credit Facility. The Revolving Credit Facility is secured by certain assets in our portfolio and excludes investments held by Ares Capital CP Funding LLC ("Ares Capital CP") under the Revolving Funding Facility, those held by Ares Capital JB Funding LLC ("ACJB") under the SMBC Funding Facility, those held by Ares Venture Finance, L.P. ("AVF LP") under Small Business Administration ("SBA")-guaranteed debentures (the "SBA Debentures") and certain other investments; the indebtedness thereunder is therefore effectively senior to the Notes to the extent of the value of such assets.

**The Notes will be structurally subordinated to the indebtedness and other liabilities of our subsidiaries.**

The Notes are obligations exclusively of Ares Capital and not of any of our subsidiaries. None of our subsidiaries is a guarantor of the Notes and the Notes are not required to be guaranteed by any subsidiaries we may acquire or create in the future. A significant portion of the indebtedness required to be consolidated on our balance sheet is held through subsidiary financing vehicles and secured by certain assets of such subsidiaries. For example, the secured indebtedness with respect to the Revolving Funding Facility, the SMBC Funding Facility and the SBA Debentures is held through our consolidated subsidiaries, Ares Capital CP, ACJB and AVF LP, respectively. The assets of such subsidiaries are not directly available to satisfy the claims of our creditors, including holders of the Notes. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Financial Condition, Liquidity and Capital Resources Debt Capital Activities" in the accompanying prospectus for more detail on the Revolving Funding Facility, the SMBC Funding Facility and the SBA Debentures.

Except to the extent we are a creditor with recognized claims against our subsidiaries, all claims of creditors (including trade creditors) and holders of preferred stock, if any, of our subsidiaries will have priority over our equity interests in such subsidiaries (and therefore the claims of our creditors, including holders of the Notes) with respect to the assets of such subsidiaries. Even if we are

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recognized as a creditor of one or more of our subsidiaries, our claims would still be effectively subordinated to any security interests in the assets of any such subsidiary and to any indebtedness or other liabilities of any such subsidiary senior to our claims. Consequently, the Notes will be structurally subordinated to all indebtedness and other liabilities (including trade payables) of any of our subsidiaries and any subsidiaries that we may in the future acquire or establish as financing vehicles or otherwise. As of July 26, 2017, we had \$640.0 million aggregate principal amount of outstanding indebtedness under the Revolving Funding Facility, \$90.0 million aggregate principal amount of outstanding indebtedness under the SMBC Funding Facility and \$25.0 million aggregate principal amount of the SBA Debentures issued and outstanding. All of such indebtedness would be structurally senior to the Notes. In addition, our subsidiaries may incur substantial additional indebtedness in the future, all of which would be structurally senior to the Notes.

**The indenture will contain limited protection for holders of the Notes.**

The indenture offers limited protection to holders of the Notes. The terms of the indenture and the Notes do not restrict our or any of our subsidiaries' ability to engage in, or otherwise be a party to, a variety of corporate transactions, circumstances or events that could have an adverse impact on your investment in the Notes. In particular, the terms of the indenture and the Notes will not place any restrictions on our or our subsidiaries' ability to:

issue securities or otherwise incur additional indebtedness or other obligations, including (1) any indebtedness or other obligations that would be equal in right of payment to the Notes, (2) any indebtedness or other obligations that would be secured and therefore rank effectively senior in right of payment to the Notes to the extent of the values of the assets securing such debt, (3) indebtedness of ours that is guaranteed by one or more of our subsidiaries and which therefore is structurally senior to the Notes and (4) securities, indebtedness or obligations issued or incurred by our subsidiaries that would be senior to our equity interests in our subsidiaries and therefore rank structurally senior to the Notes with respect to the assets of our subsidiaries, in each case other than an incurrence of indebtedness or other obligation that would cause a violation of Section 18(a)(1)(A) as modified by Section 61(a)(1) of the Investment Company Act or any successor provisions (giving effect to any exemptive relief granted to us by the SEC);

pay dividends on, or purchase or redeem or make any payments in respect of, capital stock or other securities ranking junior in right of payment to the Notes;

sell assets (other than certain limited restrictions on our ability to consolidate, merge or sell all or substantially all of our assets);

create liens (including liens on the shares of our subsidiaries) or enter into sale and leaseback transactions;

enter into transactions with affiliates;

make investments; or

create restrictions on the payment of dividends or other amounts to us from our subsidiaries.

Furthermore, the terms of the indenture and the Notes do not protect holders of the Notes in the event that we experience changes (including significant adverse changes) in our financial condition, results of operations or credit ratings, as they do not require that we or our subsidiaries adhere to any financial tests or ratios or specified levels of net worth, revenues, income, cash flow, or liquidity.

Our ability to recapitalize, incur additional debt and take a number of other actions that are not limited by the terms of the Notes may have important consequences for you as a holder of the

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Notes, including making it more difficult for us to satisfy our obligations with respect to the Notes or negatively affecting the trading value of the Notes.

Certain of our current debt instruments include more protections for their holders than the indenture and the Notes. See in the accompanying prospectus "Risk Factors Risks Relating to Our Business In addition to regulatory requirements that restrict our ability to raise capital, the Facilities, the Convertible Unsecured Notes, the Unsecured Notes and the SBA Debentures contain various covenants that, if not complied with, could accelerate repayment under the Facilities, the Convertible Unsecured Notes, the Unsecured Notes and SBA Debentures, thereby materially and adversely affecting our liquidity, financial condition and results of operations." In addition, other debt we issue or incur in the future could contain more protections for its holders than the indenture and the Notes, including additional covenants and events of default. The issuance or incurrence of any such debt with incremental protections could affect the market for and trading levels and prices of the Notes.

**We may not be able to repurchase the Notes upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event.**

Upon the occurrence of a Change of Control Repurchase Event, as defined in the indenture, as supplemented, subject to certain conditions, we will be required to offer to repurchase all outstanding Notes at 100% of their principal amount, plus accrued and unpaid interest. The source of funds for that purchase of Notes will be our available cash or cash generated from our operations or other potential sources, including borrowings, investment repayments, sales of assets or sales of equity. We cannot assure you that sufficient funds from such sources will be available at the time of any Change of Control Repurchase Event to make required repurchases of Notes tendered. The terms of our Facilities provide that certain change of control events will constitute an event of default thereunder entitling the lenders to accelerate any indebtedness outstanding under the Facilities at that time and to terminate the Facilities. In addition, the indentures governing our Convertible Unsecured Notes (as defined below), the 2018 Notes (as defined below), the 2020 Notes (as defined below) and the January 2022 Notes (as defined below) contain a provision that would require us to offer to purchase the Convertible Unsecured Notes, the 2018 Notes, the 2020 Notes or the January 2022 Notes upon the occurrence of a fundamental change or a change of control repurchase event, as applicable. A failure to purchase any tendered Convertible Unsecured Notes, 2018 Notes, 2020 Notes or January 2022 Notes would constitute an event of default under the indentures for the Convertible Unsecured Notes, the 2018 Notes, the 2020 Notes or the January 2022 Notes, as applicable, which would, in turn, constitute a default under the Facilities and the indenture. Our future debt instruments also may contain similar restrictions and provisions. If the holders of the Notes exercise their right to require us to repurchase all the Notes upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event, the financial effect of this repurchase could cause a default under our future debt instruments, even if the Change of Control Repurchase Event itself would not cause a default. It is possible that we will not have sufficient funds at the time of the Change of Control Repurchase Event to make the required repurchase of the Notes and/or our other debt. See "Description of Notes Offer to Repurchase Upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event."

**If an active trading market does not develop for the Notes, you may not be able to resell them.**

The Notes are a new issue of debt securities for which there currently is no trading market. We do not intend to apply for listing of the Notes on any securities exchange or for quotation of the Notes on any automated dealer quotation system. If no active trading market develops, you may not be able to resell your Notes at their fair market value or at all. If the Notes are traded after their initial issuance, they may trade at a discount from their initial offering price depending on prevailing interest rates, the market for similar securities, our credit ratings, general economic conditions, our financial condition, performance and prospects and other factors. The underwriters have advised us that they intend to make a market in the Notes, but they are not obligated to do so. The underwriters may

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discontinue any market-making in the Notes at any time at their sole discretion. Accordingly, we cannot assure you that a liquid trading market will develop for the Notes, that you will be able to sell your Notes at a particular time or that the price you receive when you sell will be favorable. To the extent an active trading market does not develop, the liquidity and trading price for the Notes may be harmed. Accordingly, you may be required to bear the financial risk of an investment in the Notes for an indefinite period of time.

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**USE OF PROCEEDS**

We estimate that the net proceeds we will receive from the sale of the Notes in this offering will be approximately \$742.1 million, after deducting the underwriting discount of approximately \$5.3 million payable by us and estimated offering expenses of approximately \$2.0 million payable by us.

We expect to use the net proceeds of this offering to repay outstanding indebtedness under the Revolving Credit Facility (\$395.0 million aggregate principal amount outstanding as of July 26, 2017), the Revolving Funding Facility (\$640.0 million aggregate principal amount outstanding as of July 26, 2017) and/or the SMBC Funding Facility (\$90.0 million aggregate principal amount outstanding as of July 26, 2017).

The interest charged on the indebtedness incurred under the Revolving Credit Facility is based on LIBOR (one-, two-, three- or six-month) plus an applicable spread of either 1.75% or 2.00% or an "alternate base rate" (as defined in the agreements governing the Revolving Credit Facility) plus an applicable spread of either 0.75% or 1.00%, in each case, determined monthly based on the total amount of the borrowing base relative to the total commitments of the Revolving Credit Facility and other debt, if any, secured by the same collateral as the Revolving Credit Facility. As of July 26, 2017, the one, two, three and six month LIBOR was 1.23%, 1.26%, 1.31% and 1.46%, respectively. As of July 26, 2017, for \$2.0 billion of the total Revolving Credit Facility capacity, the expiration date is January 4, 2022, for \$37.5 million of the Revolving Credit Facility capacity, the expiration date is May 4, 2021 and for the remaining \$45 million, the expiration date is May 4, 2020. The interest charged on the indebtedness incurred under the Revolving Funding Facility is based on LIBOR plus 2.30% per annum or a "base rate" (as defined in the agreements governing the Revolving Funding Facility) plus 1.30% per annum. The Revolving Funding Facility is scheduled to expire on January 3, 2022 (subject to extension exercisable upon mutual consent). The interest rate charged on the indebtedness incurred under the SMBC Funding Facility is based on an applicable spread of either 1.75% or 2.00% over LIBOR or 0.75% or 1.00% over a "base rate" (as defined in the agreements governing the SMBC Funding Facility), in each case, determined monthly based on the amount of the average borrowings outstanding under the SMBC Funding Facility. The SMBC Funding Facility is scheduled to expire on September 14, 2022 (subject to two one-year extension options exercisable upon mutual consent).

Affiliates of certain of the underwriters are lenders under the Revolving Credit Facility, the Revolving Funding Facility and/or the SMBC Funding Facility. Accordingly, affiliates of certain of the underwriters may receive more than 5% of the proceeds of this offering to the extent such proceeds are used to repay or repurchase outstanding indebtedness under the Revolving Credit Facility, the Revolving Funding Facility and/or the SMBC Funding Facility.

We may reborrow under the credit facilities described above for general corporate purposes, which include investing in portfolio companies in accordance with our investment objective.

Investing in portfolio companies could include investments in our investment backlog and pipeline that, as of July 26, 2017, were approximately \$530 million and \$325 million, respectively. Please note that the consummation of any of the investments in this backlog and pipeline depends upon, among other things, one or more of the following: satisfactory completion of our due diligence investigation of the prospective portfolio company, our acceptance of the terms and structure of such investment and the execution and delivery of satisfactory transaction documentation. In addition, we may sell all or a portion of these investments and certain of these investments may result in the repayment of existing investments. We cannot assure you that we will make any of these investments or that we will sell all or any portion of these investments.

Table of Contents**CAPITALIZATION**

The following table sets forth our actual capitalization at June 30, 2017. You should read this table together with "Use of Proceeds" described in this prospectus supplement and our most recent balance sheet included elsewhere in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

	<b>As of June 30, 2017</b> <b>(amounts in</b> <b>millions)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 536
<b>Debt(1)</b>	
Revolving Credit Facility	\$ 920
Revolving Funding Facility	685
SMBC Funding Facility	160
SBA Debentures	25
2018 Convertible Notes	270
2019 Convertible Notes	300
2022 Convertible Notes	388
2018 Notes	750
2020 Notes	600
January 2022 Notes	600
2047 Notes	230
Total Debt	4,928
<b>Stockholders' Equity</b>	
Common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, 500,000,000 common shares authorized, and 426,299,165 common shares issued and outstanding	
Capital in excess of par value	7,206
Accumulated overdistributed net investment income	(69)
Accumulated net realized gains on investments, foreign currency transactions, extinguishment of debt and other assets	165
Net unrealized losses on investments, foreign currency and other transactions	(251)
Total stockholders' equity	7,051
Total capitalization	\$ 11,979

(1)

The above table reflects the principal amount of indebtedness outstanding as of June 30, 2017. As of July 26, 2017, indebtedness under the Revolving Credit Facility, the Revolving Funding Facility and the SMBC Funding Facility were \$395.0 million, \$640.0 million and \$90.0 million, respectively. The net proceeds from the sale of the Notes are expected to be used to pay down outstanding indebtedness under the Revolving Credit Facility, the Revolving Funding Facility and/or the SMBC Funding Facility, and for general corporate purposes, which include investing in portfolio companies in accordance with our investment objective. See "Use of Proceeds."

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**DESCRIPTION OF NOTES**

The following description of the particular terms of the 3.500% Notes due 2023 supplements and, to the extent inconsistent with, replaces the description of the general terms and provisions of the debt securities set forth in the accompanying prospectus.

We will issue the Notes under a base indenture dated as of October 21, 2010, between us and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee (the "trustee"), as supplemented by a separate supplemental indenture to be dated as of the settlement date for the Notes. As used in this section, all references to the "indenture" mean the base indenture as supplemented by the supplemental indenture. The terms of the Notes include those expressly set forth in the indenture and those made part of the indenture by reference to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, or the TIA.

The following description is a summary of the material provisions of the Notes and the indenture and does not purport to be complete. This summary is subject to and is qualified by reference to all the provisions of the Notes and the indenture, including the definitions of certain terms used in the indenture. We urge you to read these documents because they, and not this description, define your rights as a holder of the Notes.

For purposes of this description, references to "we," "our" and "us" refer only to Ares Capital and not to any of its current or future subsidiaries and references to "subsidiaries" refer only to our consolidated subsidiaries and exclude any investments held by Ares Capital in the ordinary course of business which are not, under GAAP, consolidated on the financial statements of Ares Capital and its subsidiaries.

**General**

The Notes:

will be our general unsecured, senior obligations;

will initially be issued in an aggregate principal amount of \$750 million;

will mature on February 10, 2023, unless earlier redeemed or repurchased, as discussed below;

will bear cash interest from August 10, 2017 at an annual rate of 3.500% payable semi-annually on February 10 and August 10 of each year, beginning on February 10, 2018;

will be subject to redemption at our option as described under " Optional Redemption;"

will be subject to repurchase by us at the option of the holders following a Change of Control Repurchase Event (as defined below under " Offer to Repurchase Upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event"), at a repurchase price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the Notes to be repurchased, *plus* accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the date of repurchase;

will be issued in denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 thereof; and

will be represented by one or more registered Notes in global form, but in certain limited circumstances may be represented by Notes in definitive form. See " Book-Entry, Settlement and Clearance."

The indenture does not limit the amount of debt that may be issued by us or our subsidiaries under the indenture or otherwise. The indenture does not contain any financial covenants and does not restrict us from paying dividends or issuing or repurchasing our other securities. Other than restrictions described under " Offer to Repurchase Upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event" and " Merger, Consolidation or Sale



of Assets" below, the indenture does not contain any covenants or

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other provisions designed to afford holders of the Notes protection in the event of a highly leveraged transaction involving us or in the event of a decline in our credit rating as the result of a takeover, recapitalization, highly leveraged transaction or similar restructuring involving us that could adversely affect such holders.

We may, without the consent of the holders, issue additional Notes under the indenture with the same terms (except for the issue date, public offering price and, if applicable, the initial interest payment date) and with the same CUSIP numbers as the Notes offered hereby in an unlimited aggregate principal amount; *provided* that such additional Notes must be part of the same issue as the Notes offered hereby for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

We do not intend to list the Notes on any securities exchange or any automated dealer quotation system.

**Payments on the Notes; Paying Agent and Registrar; Transfer and Exchange**

We will pay the principal of, and interest on, Notes in global form registered in the name of or held by DTC or its nominee in immediately available funds to DTC or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered holder of such Global Note (as defined below).

Payment of principal of (and premium, if any) and any such interest on the Notes will be made at the corporate trust office of the trustee in such coin or currency of the United States of America as at the time of payment is legal tender for payment of public and private debts; *provided, however*, that at our option payment of interest may be made by check mailed to the address of the person entitled thereto as such address shall appear in the security register.

A holder of Notes may transfer or exchange Notes at the office of the registrar in accordance with the indenture. The registrar and the trustee may require a holder, among other things, to furnish appropriate endorsements and transfer documents. No service charge will be imposed by us, the trustee or the registrar for any registration of transfer or exchange of Notes, but we may require a holder to pay a sum sufficient to cover any transfer tax or other similar governmental charge required by law or permitted by the indenture.

The registered holder of a Note will be treated as its owner for all purposes.

**Interest**

The Notes will bear cash interest at a rate of 3.500% per year until maturity. Interest on the Notes will accrue from August 10, 2017 or from the most recent date on which interest has been paid or duly provided for. Interest will be payable semiannually in arrears on February 10 and August 10 of each year, beginning on February 10, 2018.

Interest will be paid to the person in whose name a Note is registered at 5:00 p.m. New York City time (the "close of business") on January 27 or July 27, as the case may be, immediately preceding the relevant interest payment date. Interest on the Notes will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year composed of twelve 30-day months.

If any interest payment date, redemption date, the maturity date or any earlier required repurchase date upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event (defined below) of a Note falls on a day that is not a business day, the required payment will be made on the next succeeding business day and no interest on such payment will accrue in respect of the delay. The term "business day" means, with respect to any Note, any day other than a Saturday, a Sunday or a day on which banking institutions in New York or the city in which the corporate trust office is located are authorized or obligated by law or executive order to close.

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**Ranking**

The Notes will be our general unsecured obligations that rank senior in right of payment to all of our future indebtedness that is expressly subordinated, or junior, in right of payment to the Notes. The Notes will rank *pari passu*, or equally, in right of payment with all of our existing and future liabilities that are not so subordinated, or junior. The Notes will effectively rank subordinated, or junior, to any of our secured indebtedness (including unsecured indebtedness that we later secure) to the extent of the value of the assets securing such indebtedness. The Notes will rank structurally subordinated, or junior, to all existing and future indebtedness (including trade payables) incurred by our subsidiaries, financing vehicles or similar facilities. In the event of our bankruptcy, liquidation, reorganization or other winding up, our assets that secure secured debt will be available to pay obligations on the Notes only after all indebtedness under such secured debt has been repaid in full from such assets. We advise you that there may not be sufficient assets remaining to pay amounts due on any or all the Notes then outstanding.

As of July 26, 2017, our total consolidated indebtedness was approximately \$4.3 billion aggregate principal amount outstanding, of which approximately \$395.0 million was secured indebtedness at the Ares Capital level, and of which an aggregate of approximately \$755.0 million was indebtedness of our subsidiaries. After giving effect to the issuance of the Notes, and assuming the proceeds therefrom are used to repay outstanding borrowings under the Facilities, our total consolidated indebtedness would have been approximately \$4.3 billion aggregate principal amount outstanding as of July 26, 2017. See "Capitalization."

**Optional Redemption**

We may redeem some or all of the Notes at any time, or from time to time. If we choose to redeem any Notes prior to maturity, we will pay a redemption price equal to the greater of the following amounts, plus, in each case, accrued and unpaid interest to the redemption date:

100% of the principal amount of the Notes to be redeemed, or

the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest (exclusive of accrued and unpaid interest to the date of redemption) on the Notes to be redeemed, discounted to the redemption date on a semi-annual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30- day months) using the applicable Treasury Rate plus 30 basis points;

*provided*, however, that if we redeem any Notes on or after January 10, 2023 (the date falling one month prior to the maturity date of the Notes), the redemption price for the Notes will be equal to 100% of the principal amount of the Notes to be redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to, but excluding, the date of redemption.

If we choose to redeem any Notes, we will deliver a notice of redemption to holders of Notes not less than 30 nor more than 60 days before the redemption date. If we are redeeming less than all of the Notes, the particular Notes to be redeemed will be selected in accordance with the applicable procedures of the trustee and, so long as the Notes are registered to DTC or its nominee, DTC; *provided, however*, that no such partial redemption shall reduce the portion of the principal amount of a Note not redeemed to less than \$2,000. Unless we default in payment of the redemption price, on and after the redemption date, interest will cease to accrue on the Notes or portions of the Notes called for redemption.

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For purposes of calculating the redemption price in connection with the redemption of the Notes, on any redemption date, the following terms have the meanings set forth below:

"Treasury Rate" means, with respect to any redemption date, the rate per annum equal to the semi-annual equivalent yield-to-maturity of the Comparable Treasury Issue (computed as of the third business day immediately preceding the redemption), assuming a price for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed as a percentage of its principal amount) equal to the Comparable Treasury Price for such redemption date. The redemption price and the Treasury Rate will be determined by us.

"Comparable Treasury Issue" means the United States Treasury security selected by the Reference Treasury Dealer as having a maturity comparable to the remaining term of the Notes to be redeemed that would be utilized, at the time of selection and in accordance with customary financing practice, in pricing new issues of corporate debt securities of comparable maturity to the remaining term of the Notes being redeemed.

"Comparable Treasury Price" means (1) the average of the remaining Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations for the redemption date, after excluding the highest and lowest Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, or (2) if the Quotation Agent obtains fewer than four such Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, the average of all such quotations.

"Quotation Agent" means a Reference Treasury Dealer selected by us.

"Reference Treasury Dealer" means each of (1) Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated and (2) J.P. Morgan Securities LLC or their respective affiliates which are primary U.S. government securities dealers and their respective successors; *provided, however*, that if any of the foregoing or their affiliates shall cease to be a primary U.S. government securities dealer in the United States (a "Primary Treasury Dealer"), we shall select another Primary Treasury Dealer.

"Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations" means, with respect to each Reference Treasury Dealer and any redemption date, the average, as determined by the Quotation Agent, of the bid and asked prices for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed in each case as a percentage of its principal amount) quoted in writing to the Quotation Agent by such Reference Treasury Dealer at 3:30 p.m. New York time on the third business day preceding such redemption date.

All determinations made by any Reference Treasury Dealer, including the Quotation Agent, with respect to determining the redemption price will be final and binding absent manifest error.

**Offer to Repurchase Upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event**

If a Change of Control Repurchase Event occurs, unless we have exercised our right to redeem the Notes in full, we will make an offer to each holder of Notes to repurchase all or any part (in minimum denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 principal amount) of that holder's Notes at a repurchase price in cash equal to 100% of the aggregate principal amount of Notes repurchased plus any accrued and unpaid interest on the Notes repurchased to the date of purchase. Within 30 days following any Change of Control Repurchase Event or, at our option, prior to any Change of Control, but after the public announcement of the Change of Control, we will mail a notice to each holder describing the transaction or transactions that constitute or may constitute the Change of Control Repurchase Event and offering to repurchase Notes on the payment date specified in the notice, which date will be no earlier than 30 days and no later than 60 days from the date such notice is mailed. The notice shall, if mailed prior to the date of consummation of the Change of Control, state that the offer to purchase is conditioned on the Change of Control Repurchase Event occurring on or prior to the payment date specified in the notice. We will comply with the requirements of Rule 14e-1 under the Exchange Act and any other securities laws and regulations thereunder to the extent those laws and regulations are applicable in connection with the repurchase of the Notes as a result of a Change of Control Repurchase Event. To the extent that the provisions of any securities laws or

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regulations conflict with the Change of Control Repurchase Event provisions of the Notes, we will comply with the applicable securities laws and regulations and will not be deemed to have breached our obligations under the Change of Control Repurchase Event provisions of the Notes by virtue of such conflict.

On the Change of Control Repurchase Event payment date, subject to extension if necessary to comply with the provisions of the Investment Company Act, we will, to the extent lawful:

- (1) accept for payment all Notes or portions of Notes properly tendered pursuant to our offer;
- (2) deposit with the paying agent an amount equal to the aggregate purchase price in respect of all Notes or portions of Notes properly tendered; and
- (3) deliver or cause to be delivered to the trustee the Notes properly accepted, together with an officers' certificate stating the aggregate principal amount of Notes being purchased by us.

The paying agent will promptly remit to each holder of Notes properly tendered the purchase price for the Notes, and the trustee will promptly authenticate and mail (or cause to be transferred by book-entry) to each holder a new Note equal in principal amount to any unpurchased portion of any Notes surrendered; *provided* that each new Note will be in a minimum principal amount of \$2,000 or an integral multiple of \$1,000 in excess thereof.

We will not be required to make an offer to repurchase the Notes upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event if a third party makes an offer in the manner, at the times and otherwise in compliance with the requirements for an offer made by us and such third party purchases all Notes properly tendered and not withdrawn under its offer.

The source of funds that will be required to repurchase Notes in the event of a Change of Control Repurchase Event will be our available cash or cash generated from our operations or other potential sources, including funds provided by a purchaser in the Change of Control transaction, borrowings, sales of assets or sales of equity. We cannot assure you that sufficient funds from such sources will be available at the time of any Change of Control Repurchase Event to make required repurchases of Notes tendered. The terms of our Facilities provide that certain change of control events will constitute an event of default thereunder entitling the lenders to accelerate any indebtedness outstanding under the Facilities at that time and to terminate the Facilities. In addition, the indentures governing our Convertible Unsecured Notes, our 2018 Notes, our 2020 Notes and the January 2022 Notes contain a provision that would require us to offer to purchase the Convertible Unsecured Notes, the 2018 Notes, the 2020 Notes or the January 2022 Notes upon the occurrence of a fundamental change or a change of control repurchase event, as applicable. A failure to purchase any tendered Convertible Unsecured Notes, 2018 Notes, 2020 Notes or the January 2022 Notes would constitute an event of default under the indentures for the Convertible Unsecured Notes, the 2018 Notes, the 2020 Notes or the January 2022 Notes, as applicable, which would, in turn, constitute a default under the Facilities and the indenture. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Financial Condition, Liquidity and Capital Resources" in the accompanying prospectus for a general discussion of our indebtedness. Our future debt instruments may contain similar restrictions and provisions. If the holders of the Notes exercise their right to require us to repurchase Notes upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event, the financial effect of this repurchase could cause a default under our future debt instruments, even if the Change of Control Repurchase Event itself would not cause a default. It is possible that we will not have sufficient funds at the time of the Change of Control Repurchase Event to make the required repurchase of the Notes and/or our other debt. See "Risk Factors Risks Relating to the Notes We may not be able to repurchase the Notes upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event."

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The definition of "Change of Control" includes a phrase relating to the direct or indirect sale, transfer, conveyance or other disposition of "all or substantially all" of our properties or assets and those of our subsidiaries taken as a whole. Although there is a limited body of case law interpreting the phrase "substantially all," there is no precise, established definition of the phrase under applicable law. Accordingly, the ability of a holder of Notes to require us to repurchase the Notes as a result of a sale, transfer, conveyance or other disposition of less than all of our assets and the assets of our subsidiaries taken as a whole to another person or group may be uncertain.

For purposes of the Notes:

"Below Investment Grade Rating Event" means the Notes are downgraded below Investment Grade by both Rating Agencies on any date from the date of the public notice of an arrangement that results in a Change of Control until the end of the 60-day period following public notice of the occurrence of a Change of Control (which period shall be extended so long as the rating of the Notes is under publicly announced consideration for possible downgrade by either of the Rating Agencies); *provided* that a Below Investment Grade Rating Event otherwise arising by virtue of a particular reduction in rating shall not be deemed to have occurred in respect of a particular Change of Control (and thus shall not be deemed a Below Investment Grade Rating Event for purposes of the definition of Change of Control Repurchase Event hereunder) if the Rating Agencies making the reduction in rating to which this definition would otherwise apply do not announce or publicly confirm or inform the trustee in writing at its request that the reduction was the result, in whole or in part, of any event or circumstance comprised of or arising as a result of, or in respect of, the applicable Change of Control (whether or not the applicable Change of Control shall have occurred at the time of the Below Investment Grade Rating Event).

"Change of Control" means the occurrence of any of the following:

- (1) the direct or indirect sale, lease, transfer, conveyance or other disposition (other than by way of merger or consolidation) in one or a series of related transactions, of all or substantially all of the assets of Ares Capital and its Controlled Subsidiaries taken as a whole to any "person" or "group" (as those terms are used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act), other than to any Permitted Holders; *provided* that, for the avoidance of doubt, a pledge of assets pursuant to any secured debt instrument of Ares Capital or its Controlled Subsidiaries shall not be deemed to be any such sale, lease, transfer, conveyance or disposition;
- (2) the consummation of any transaction (including, without limitation, any merger or consolidation) the result of which is that any "person" or "group" (as those terms are used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act) (other than any Permitted Holders) becomes the "beneficial owner" (as defined in Rules 13d-3 and 13d-5 under the Exchange Act), directly or indirectly, of more than 50% of the outstanding Voting Stock of Ares Capital, measured by voting power rather than number of shares; or
- (3) the approval by Ares Capital's stockholders of any plan or proposal relating to the liquidation or dissolution of Ares Capital.

"Change of Control Repurchase Event" means the occurrence of a Change of Control and a Below Investment Grade Rating Event.

"Controlled Subsidiary" means any subsidiary of Ares Capital, 50% or more of the outstanding equity interests of which are owned by Ares Capital and its direct or indirect subsidiaries and of which Ares Capital possesses, directly or indirectly, the power to direct or cause the direction of the management or policies, whether through the ownership of voting equity interests, by agreement or otherwise.

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"Fitch" means Fitch, Inc., also known as Fitch Ratings, or any successor thereto.

"Investment Grade" means a rating of BBB or better by Fitch (or its equivalent under any successor rating categories of Fitch) and BBB or better by S&P (or its equivalent under any successor rating categories of S&P) (or, in each case, if such Rating Agency ceases to rate the Notes for reasons outside of our control, the equivalent investment grade credit rating from any Rating Agency selected by us as a replacement Rating Agency).

"Permitted Holders" means (i) us, (ii) one or more of our Controlled Subsidiaries and (iii) Ares Capital Management LLC or any affiliate of Ares Capital Management LLC that is organized under the laws of a jurisdiction located in the United States of America and in the business of managing or advising clients.

"Rating Agency" means:

- (1) each of Fitch and S&P; and
- (2) if either of Fitch or S&P ceases to rate the Notes or fails to make a rating of the Notes publicly available for reasons outside of our control, a "nationally recognized statistical rating organization" as defined in Section (3)(a)(62) of the Exchange Act selected by us as a replacement agency for Fitch or S&P, or both, as the case may be.

"S&P" means Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, a division of McGraw-Hill, Inc., or any successor thereto.

"Voting Stock" as applied to stock of any person, means shares, interests, participations or other equivalents in the equity interest (however designated) in such person having ordinary voting power for the election of a majority of the directors (or the equivalent) of such person, other than shares, interests, participations or other equivalents having such power only by reason of the occurrence of a contingency.

### **Covenants**

In addition to the covenants described in the base indenture, the following covenants shall apply to the Notes. To the extent of any conflict or inconsistency between the base indenture and the following covenants, the following covenants shall govern:

#### ***Merger, Consolidation or Sale of Assets***

The indenture will provide that we will not merge or consolidate with or into any other person (other than a merger of a wholly owned subsidiary into us), or sell, transfer, lease, convey or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all our property (*provided* that, for the avoidance of doubt, a pledge of assets pursuant to any secured debt instrument of Ares Capital or its Controlled Subsidiaries shall not be deemed to be any such sale, transfer, lease, conveyance or disposition) in any one transaction or series of related transactions unless:

we are the surviving person (the "Surviving Person") or the Surviving Person (if other than us) formed by such merger or consolidation or to which such sale, transfer, lease, conveyance or disposition is made shall be a corporation or limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America or any state or territory thereof;

the Surviving Person (if other than us) expressly assumes, by supplemental indenture in form reasonably satisfactory to the trustee, executed and delivered to the trustee by such Surviving Person, the due and punctual payment of the principal of, and premium, if any,

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and interest on, all the Notes outstanding, and the due and punctual performance and observance of all the covenants and conditions of the indenture to be performed by us;

immediately before and immediately after giving effect to such transaction or series of related transactions, no default or event of default shall have occurred and be continuing; and

we shall deliver, or cause to be delivered, to the trustee, an officers' certificate and an opinion of counsel, each stating that such transaction and the supplemental indenture, if any, in respect thereto, comply with this covenant and that all conditions precedent in the indenture relating to such transaction have been complied with.

For the purposes of this covenant, the sale, transfer, lease, conveyance or other disposition of all the property of one or more of our subsidiaries, which property, if held by us instead of such subsidiaries, would constitute all or substantially all of our property on a consolidated basis, shall be deemed to be the transfer of all or substantially all of our property.

Although there is a limited body of case law interpreting the phrase "substantially all", there is no precise established definition of the phrase under applicable law. Accordingly, in certain circumstances there may be a degree of uncertainty as to whether a particular transaction would involve "all or substantially all" of the properties or assets of a person. As a result, it may be unclear as to whether the merger, consolidation or sale of assets covenant would apply to a particular transaction as described above absent a decision by a court of competent jurisdiction. Although these types of transactions are permitted under the indenture, certain of the foregoing transactions could constitute a Change of Control that results in a Change of Control Repurchase Event permitting each holder to require us to repurchase the Notes of such holder as described above.

An assumption by any person of obligations under the Notes and the indenture might be deemed for U.S. federal income tax purposes to be an exchange of the Notes for new Notes by the holders thereof, resulting in recognition of gain or loss for such purposes and possibly other adverse tax consequences to the holders. Holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the tax consequences of such an assumption.

***Other Covenants***

We agree that for the period of time during which the Notes are outstanding, we will not violate, whether or not we are subject to, Section 18(a)(1)(A) as modified by Section 61(a)(1) of the Investment Company Act or any successor provisions, giving effect to any exemptive relief granted to us by the SEC.

If, at any time, we are not subject to the reporting requirements of Sections 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act to file any periodic reports with the SEC, we agree to furnish to holders of the Notes and the trustee, for the period of time during which the Notes are outstanding, our audited annual consolidated financial statements, within 90 days of our fiscal year end, and unaudited interim consolidated financial statements, within 45 days of our fiscal quarter end (other than our fourth fiscal quarter). All such financial statements will be prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with GAAP, as applicable.

**Events of Default**

Each of the following is an event of default:

- (1) default in the payment of any interest upon any Note when due and payable and the default continues for a period of 30 days;



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- (2) default in the payment of the principal of (or premium, if any, on) any Note when it becomes due and payable at its maturity including upon any redemption date or required repurchase date;
- (3) our failure for 60 consecutive days after written notice from the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the Notes then outstanding has been received to comply with any of our other agreements contained in the Notes or indenture;
- (4) default by us or any of our significant subsidiaries, as defined in Article 1, Rule 1-02 of Regulation S-X under the Exchange Act (but excluding any subsidiary which is (a) a non-recourse or limited recourse subsidiary, (b) a bankruptcy remote special purpose vehicle or (c) is not consolidated with Ares Capital for purposes of GAAP), with respect to any mortgage, agreement or other instrument under which there may be outstanding, or by which there may be secured or evidenced, any indebtedness for money borrowed in excess of \$100 million in the aggregate of us and/or any such subsidiary, whether such indebtedness now exists or shall hereafter be created (i) resulting in such indebtedness becoming or being declared due and payable or (ii) constituting a failure to pay the principal or interest of any such debt when due and payable at its stated maturity, upon required repurchase, upon declaration of acceleration or otherwise, unless, in either case, such indebtedness is discharged, or such acceleration is rescinded, stayed or annulled, within a period of 30 calendar days after written notice of such failure is given to us by the trustee or to us and the trustee by the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the Notes then outstanding;
- (5) Pursuant to Section 18(a)(1)(C)(ii) and Section 61 of the Investment Company Act, on the last business day of each of 24 consecutive calendar months, any class of securities shall have an asset coverage (as such term is used in the Investment Company Act) of less than 100%; or
- (6) certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency, or reorganization involving us occur and remain undischarged or unstayed for a period of 60 days.

If an event of default occurs and is continuing, then and in every such case (other than an event of default specified in item (6) above) the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding Notes may declare the entire principal amount of Notes to be due and immediately payable, by a notice in writing to us (and to the trustee if given by the holders), and upon any such declaration such principal or specified portion thereof shall become immediately due and payable. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the case of the events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization described in item (6) above, 100% of the principal of and accrued and unpaid interest on the Notes will automatically become due and payable.

At any time after a declaration of acceleration with respect to the Notes has been made and before a judgment or decree for payment of the money due has been obtained by the trustee, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding Notes, by written notice to us and the trustee, may rescind and annul such declaration and its consequences if (i) we have paid or deposited with the trustee a sum sufficient to pay all overdue installments of interest, if any, on all outstanding Notes, the principal of (and premium, if any, on) all outstanding Notes that have become due otherwise than by such declaration of acceleration and interest thereon at the rate or rates borne by or provided for in such Notes, to the extent that payment of such interest is lawful interest upon overdue installments of interest at the rate or rates borne by or provided for in such Notes, and all sums paid or advanced by the trustee and the reasonable compensation, expenses, disbursements and advances of the trustee, its agents and counsel, and (ii) all events of default with respect to the Notes, other than the nonpayment of the principal of (or premium, if any, on) or interest on such Notes that have

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become due solely by such declaration of acceleration, have been cured or waived. No such rescission will affect any subsequent default or impair any right consequent thereon.

No holder of Notes will have any right to institute any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, with respect to the indenture, or for the appointment of a receiver or trustee, or for any other remedy under the indenture, unless

- (i) such holder has previously given written notice to the trustee of a continuing event of default with respect to the Notes,
- (ii) the holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of the outstanding Notes shall have made written request to the trustee to institute proceedings in respect of such event of default;
- (iii) such holder or holders have offered to the trustee reasonable indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities to be incurred in compliance with such request;
- (iv) the trustee for 60 days after its receipt of such notice, request and offer of indemnity has failed to institute any such proceeding; and
- (v) no direction inconsistent with such written request has been given to the trustee during such 60-day period by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding Notes.

Notwithstanding any other provision in the indenture, the holder of any Note shall have the right, which is absolute and unconditional, to receive payment of the principal of (and premium, if any, on) and interest, if any, on such Note on the stated maturity or maturity expressed in such Note (or, in the case of redemption, on the redemption date or, in the case of repayment at the option of the holders, on the repayment date) and to institute suit for the enforcement of any such payment, and such rights shall not be impaired without the consent of such holder.

The trustee shall be under no obligation to exercise any of the rights or powers vested in it by the indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders of the Notes unless such holders shall have offered to the trustee reasonable security or indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities which might be incurred by it in compliance with such request or direction. Subject to the foregoing, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding Notes shall have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee with respect to the Notes, *provided* that (i) such direction shall not be in conflict with any rule of law or with this indenture, (ii) the trustee may take any other action deemed proper by the trustee that is not inconsistent with such direction and (iii) the trustee need not take any action that it determines in good faith may involve it in personal liability or be unjustly prejudicial to the holders of Notes not consenting.

The holders of not less than a majority in principal amount of the outstanding Notes may on behalf of the holders of all of the Notes waive any past default under the indenture with respect to the Notes and its consequences, except a default (i) in the payment of (or premium, if any, on) or interest, if any, on any Note, or (ii) in respect of a covenant or provision of the indenture which cannot be modified or amended without the consent of the holder of each outstanding Note affected. Upon any such waiver, such default shall cease to exist, and any event of default arising therefrom shall be deemed to have been cured, for every purpose, but no such waiver shall extend to any subsequent or other default or event of default or impair any right consequent thereto.

We are required to deliver to the trustee, within 120 days after the end of each fiscal year, an officers' certificate stating that to the knowledge of the signers whether we are in default in the performance of any of the terms, provisions or conditions of the indenture.

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Within 90 days after the occurrence of any default under the indenture with respect to the Notes, the trustee shall transmit notice of such default known to the trustee, unless such default shall have been cured or waived; *provided, however*, that, except in the case of a default in the payment of the principal of (or premium, if any, on) or interest, if any, on any Note, the trustee shall be protected in withholding such notice if and so long as the board of directors, the executive committee or a trust committee of directors of the trustee in good faith determines that withholding of such notice is in the interest of the holders of the Notes.

**Satisfaction and Discharge; Defeasance**

We may satisfy and discharge our obligations under the indenture by delivering to the securities registrar for cancellation all outstanding Notes or by depositing with the trustee or delivering to the holders, as applicable, after the Notes have become due and payable, or otherwise, moneys sufficient to pay all of the outstanding Notes and paying all other sums payable under the indenture by us. Such discharge is subject to terms contained in the indenture.

In addition, the Notes are subject to defeasance and covenant defeasance, in each case, in accordance with the terms of the indenture. Defeasance means that, subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions, including, but not limited to, (i) depositing in trust for the benefit of the holders of the Notes a combination of money and/or U.S. government or U.S. government agency notes or bonds that will generate enough cash to make interest, principal and any other payments on the Notes on their various due date and (ii) delivering to the Trustee an opinion of counsel stating that (a) we have received from, or there has been published by, the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") a ruling, or (b) since the date of execution of the indenture, there has been a change in the applicable federal income tax law, in either case to the effect that, and based thereon, the holders of the Notes and any coupons appertaining thereto will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such defeasance and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amounts, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such defeasance had not occurred, we can legally release ourselves from all payment and other obligations on the Notes. Covenant defeasance means that, subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions, including, but not limited to, (i) depositing in trust for the benefit of the holders of the Notes a combination of money and/or U.S. government or U.S. government agency notes or bonds that will generate enough cash to make interest, principal and any other payments on the Notes on their various due dates and (ii) delivering to the Trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that the holders of the Notes and any coupons appertaining thereto will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such covenant defeasance and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amounts, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such covenant defeasance had not occurred, we will be released from some of the restrictive covenants in the indenture.

**Trustee**

U.S. Bank National Association is the trustee, security registrar and paying agent. U.S. Bank National Association, in each of its capacities, including without limitation as trustee, security registrar and paying agent, assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the information concerning us or our affiliates or any other party contained in this document or the related documents or for any failure by us or any other party to disclose events that may have occurred and may affect the significance or accuracy of such information, or for any information provided to it by us, including but not limited to settlement amounts and any other information.

We may maintain banking relationships in the ordinary course of business with the trustee and its affiliates.

**Governing Law**

The indenture provides that it and the Notes shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York, without regard to principles of conflicts of laws that would cause the application of laws of another jurisdiction.

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**Book-Entry, Settlement and Clearance**

***Global Notes***

The Notes will be initially issued in the form of one or more registered Notes in global form, without interest coupons (the "Global Notes"). Upon issuance, each of the Global Notes will be deposited with the trustee as custodian for DTC and registered in the name of Cede & Co., as nominee of DTC.

Ownership of beneficial interests in a Global Note will be limited to persons who have accounts with DTC ("DTC participants") or persons who hold interests through DTC participants. We expect that under procedures established by DTC:

upon deposit of a Global Note with DTC's custodian, DTC will credit portions of the principal amount of the Global Note to the accounts of the DTC participants designated by the underwriters; and

ownership of beneficial interests in a Global Note will be shown on, and transfer of ownership of those interests will be effected only through, records maintained by DTC (with respect to interests of DTC participants) and the records of DTC participants (with respect to other owners of beneficial interests in the Global Note).

Beneficial interests in Global Notes may not be exchanged for Notes in physical, certificated form except in the limited circumstances described below.

***Book-Entry Procedures for Global Notes***

All interests in the Global Notes will be subject to the operations and procedures of DTC. We provide the following summary of those operations and procedures solely for the convenience of investors. The operations and procedures of DTC are controlled by that settlement system and may be changed at any time. Neither we nor the underwriters are responsible for those operations or procedures.

DTC has advised us that it is:

a limited purpose trust company organized under the laws of the State of New York;

a "banking organization" within the meaning of the New York State Banking Law;

a member of the Federal Reserve System;

a "clearing corporation" within the meaning of the Uniform Commercial Code; and

a "clearing agency" registered under Section 17A of the Exchange Act.

DTC was created to hold securities for its participants and to facilitate the clearance and settlement of securities transactions between its participants through electronic book-entry changes to the accounts of its participants. DTC's participants include securities brokers and dealers, including the underwriters; banks and trust companies; clearing corporations and other organizations. Indirect access to DTC's system is also available to others such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies; these indirect participants clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a DTC participant, either directly or indirectly. Investors who are not DTC participants may beneficially own securities held by or on behalf of DTC only through DTC participants or indirect participants in DTC.



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So long as DTC's nominee is the registered owner of a Global Note, that nominee will be considered the sole owner or holder of the Notes represented by that Global Note for all purposes under the indenture. Except as provided below, owners of beneficial interests in a Global Note:

will not be entitled to have Notes represented by the Global Note registered in their names;

will not receive or be entitled to receive physical, certificated Notes; and

will not be considered the owners or holders of the Notes under the indenture for any purpose, including with respect to the giving of any direction, instruction or approval to the trustee under the indenture.

As a result, each investor who owns a beneficial interest in a Global Note must rely on the procedures of DTC to exercise any rights of a holder of Notes under the indenture (and, if the investor is not a participant or an indirect participant in DTC, on the procedures of the DTC participant through which the investor owns its interest).

Payments of principal and interest with respect to the Notes represented by a Global Note will be made by the trustee to DTC's nominee as the registered holder of the Global Note. Neither we nor the Trustee will have any responsibility or liability for the payment of amounts to owners of beneficial interests in a Global Note, for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of those interests by DTC, or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records of DTC relating to those interests.

Payments by participants and indirect participants in DTC to the owners of beneficial interests in a Global Note will be governed by standing instructions and customary industry practice and will be the responsibility of those participants or indirect participants and DTC.

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

***Certificated Notes***

Notes in physical, certificated form will be issued and delivered to each person that DTC identifies as a beneficial owner of the related Notes only if:

DTC notifies us at any time that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depository for the Global Notes and a successor depository is not appointed within 90 days;

DTC ceases to be registered as a clearing agency under the Exchange Act and a successor depository is not appointed within 90 days; or

an event of default with respect to the Notes has occurred and is continuing and such beneficial owner requests that its Notes be issued in physical, certificated form.

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**CERTAIN MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS**

The following discussion is a general summary of the material U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to an investment in the Notes. This summary does not purport to be a complete description of the income tax considerations applicable to such an investment. The discussion is based upon the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), Treasury regulations promulgated under the Code, and administrative and judicial interpretations, each as of the date of this prospectus supplement and all of which are subject to change, potentially with retroactive effect. Investors should consult their own tax advisors with respect to tax considerations that pertain to their investment in the Notes.

This discussion deals only with Notes held as capital assets within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code and does not purport to deal with persons in special tax situations, such as financial institutions, insurance companies, controlled foreign corporations, passive foreign investment companies and regulated investment companies (and shareholders of such corporations), dealers in securities or currencies, traders in securities, former citizens of the United States, persons holding the Notes as a hedge against currency risks or as a position in a "straddle," "hedge," "constructive sale transaction" or "conversion transaction" for tax purposes, entities that are tax-exempt for U.S. federal income tax purposes, retirement plans, individual retirement accounts, tax-deferred accounts, persons subject to the alternative minimum tax, pass-through entities (including partnerships and entities and arrangements classified as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes) and beneficial owners of pass-through entities, or persons whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar. It also does not deal with beneficial owners of the Notes other than original purchasers of the Notes who acquire the Notes in this offering for a price equal to their original issue price (*i.e.*, the first price at which a substantial amount of the Notes is sold other than to bond houses, brokers, or similar persons or organizations acting in the capacity of underwriters, placement agents or wholesalers). Moreover, this discussion does not address the effect of the "unearned" net investment income surtax. Investors considering purchasing the Notes should consult their own tax advisors concerning the application of the U.S. federal tax laws to their individual circumstances, as well as any consequences to such investors relating to purchasing, owning and disposing of the Notes under the laws of any other taxing jurisdiction.

For purposes of this discussion, the term "U.S. Holder" means a beneficial owner of a Note that is, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, (i) an individual citizen or resident of the United States, (ii) a corporation or other entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or of any political subdivision thereof, (iii) a trust (a) subject to the control of one or more U.S. persons and the primary supervision of a court in the United States, or (b) that has a valid election (under applicable Treasury Regulations) to be treated as a U.S. person, or (iv) an estate the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source. The term "non-U.S. Holder" means a beneficial owner of a Note that is neither a U.S. Holder nor a partnership (including an entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes). We have not sought and will not seek any ruling from the IRS regarding the Notes. This summary does not discuss any aspects of U.S. federal estate or gift tax, or any non-U.S., state or local tax. This summary does not discuss the special treatment under U.S. federal income tax laws that could result if we invested in tax-exempt securities or certain other investment assets.

If a partnership (including an entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holds any Notes, the U.S. federal income tax treatment of a partner of the partnership generally will depend upon the status of the partner, the activities of the partnership and certain determinations made at the partner level. Partnerships holding Notes, and persons holding interests in such partnerships, should each consult their own tax advisors as to the consequences of investing in the Notes in their individual circumstances.

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**Taxation of Note Holders**

*Taxation of U.S. Holders.* If you are not a U.S. Holder, this section does not apply to you. Please see " Taxation of Non-U.S. Holders", below.

Payments or accruals of interest on a Note generally will be taxable to a U.S. Holder as ordinary interest income at the time such payments are received (actually or constructively) or accrued, in accordance with the U.S. Holder's regular method of tax accounting.

*Original Issue Discount.* For U.S. federal income tax purposes, the "issue price" of the Notes will equal the first price at which a substantial amount of the Notes are sold to investors, excluding sales to bond houses, brokers, or similar persons or persons acting in the capacity of underwriters, placement agents or wholesalers. The stated principal amount of the Notes (generally, the sum of all amounts a holder is entitled to receive on the Notes other than periodic stated interest payable in cash) may exceed their issue price (as defined above) by an amount that equals or exceeds the statutory de minimis amount (generally  $\frac{1}{4}$  of 1% of the debt instrument's stated principal amount multiplied by the number of complete years from its issue date to its maturity date) and, accordingly, the Notes may be issued with original issue discount ("OID") for U.S. federal income tax purposes if there is such an excess.

If the Notes are issued with OID, a U.S. Holder will be required to include such OID in gross income, as ordinary income, as the OID accrues on a constant yield basis, in advance of the receipt of the cash payment attributable to the OID, regardless of such U.S. Holder's usual method of accounting for U.S. federal income tax purposes. The amount of OID that a U.S. Holder must include in gross income for each taxable year is the sum of the daily portions of OID that accrue on the U.S. Holder's Notes for each day of the taxable year during which the U.S. Holder holds the Notes. The daily portion of OID is determined by allocating to each day of an accrual period (generally, the period between interest payment dates or compounding dates) a pro rata portion of the OID allocable to such accrual period. The amount of OID allocable to an accrual period is the product of the "adjusted issue price" of the Notes at the beginning of the accrual period multiplied by the yield to maturity of the notes (determined on the basis of compounding at the close of each accrual period and appropriately adjusted to reflect the length of the accrual period), reduced by the amount of any stated interest allocable to such accrual period. The adjusted issue price of the Notes at the beginning of an accrual period generally will equal their issue price, increased by the aggregate amount of OID that has accrued on the Notes in all prior accrual periods. The amount of OID included in a U.S. Holder's gross income will increase the U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in the Notes. Under these rules, a U.S. Holder will have to include increasingly greater amounts of OID over such U.S. Holder's holding period in the Notes. U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors concerning the consequences of, and accrual of, OID on the Notes.

A U.S. Holder generally may irrevocably elect to treat all interest on the Notes as OID and calculate the amount includible in income using a constant yield basis. U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding this election.

Subject to the discussion above under " Taxation of U.S. Holders Original Issue Discount" upon the sale, exchange, redemption, retirement or other disposition of a Note, a U.S. Holder generally will recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized on the sale, exchange, redemption or retirement (excluding amounts representing accrued and unpaid interest, which are treated as ordinary income) and the U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in the Note. A U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in a Note generally will equal the U.S. Holder's initial investment in the Note. Capital gain or loss generally will be long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. Holder's holding period in the Note was more than one year. Long-term capital gains generally are taxed at reduced rates for individuals and certain other non-corporate U.S. Holders. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations.



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*Taxation of Non-U.S. Holders.* If you are not a non-U.S. Holder, this section does not apply to you. Please see " Taxation of U.S. Holders", above.

A non-U.S. Holder generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding taxes on payments of principal or interest on a Note provided that (i) income on the Note is not effectively connected with the conduct by the non-U.S. Holder of a trade or business within the United States, (ii) in the case of interest income, the recipient is not a bank receiving interest described in Section 881(c)(3)(A) of the Code, (iii) the non-U.S. Holder does not own (actually or constructively) 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of the Company, and (iv) the U.S. payor of the interest (including us, or any intermediary who pays the interest on our behalf) does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that a holder is a United States person and such non-U.S. Holder provides a statement on an IRS Form W-8BEN, W-8BEN-E or other applicable form signed under penalties of perjury that includes its name and address and certifies that it is not a United States person in compliance with applicable requirements, or satisfies documentary evidence requirements for establishing that it is a non-U.S. Holder.

A non-U.S. Holder that is not exempt from tax under these rules generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax withholding on payments of interest on the Notes at a rate of 30% unless (i) the income is effectively connected with the conduct of a U.S. trade or business, in which case the interest generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis as applicable to U.S. Holders generally (unless an applicable income tax treaty provides otherwise), or (ii) an applicable income tax treaty provides for a lower rate of, or exemption from, withholding tax. To claim the benefit of an income tax treaty or to claim exemption from withholding because income is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business, the non-U.S. Holder must timely provide the appropriate, properly executed IRS forms. These forms may be required to be periodically updated.

In the case of a non-U.S. Holder that is a corporation and that receives income that is effectively connected with the conduct of a U.S. trade or business, such income may also be subject to a branch profits tax (which is generally imposed on a non-U.S. corporation on the actual or deemed repatriation from the United States of earnings and profits attributable to a U.S. trade or business) at a 30% rate. The branch profits tax may not apply (or may apply at a reduced rate) if the non-U.S. Holder is a qualified resident of a country with which the United States has an income tax treaty.

Generally, a non-U.S. Holder will not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding taxes on any amount that constitutes capital gain upon the sale, exchange, redemption, retirement or other disposition of a Note, provided the gain is not effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States by the non-U.S. Holder (and, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, is not attributable to a United States "permanent establishment" maintained by the non-U.S. Holder). Non-U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors with regard to whether taxes will be imposed on capital gain in their individual circumstances.

*Information Reporting and Backup Withholding.* A U.S. Holder (other than an "exempt recipient," including a corporation and certain other persons who, when required, demonstrate their exempt status) may be subject to backup withholding on, and to information reporting requirements with respect to, payments of principal or interest on, and proceeds from the sale, exchange, redemption or retirement of, the Notes. In general, if a non-corporate U.S. Holder subject to information reporting fails to furnish a correct taxpayer identification number or otherwise fails to comply with applicable backup withholding requirements, backup withholding at the applicable rate may apply. Non-U.S. Holders generally are exempt from information reporting and backup withholding, provided, if necessary, that they demonstrate their qualification for exemption. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules from a payment to a beneficial owner generally would be allowed as a refund or a credit against such beneficial owner's U.S. federal income tax provided the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

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**Additional Withholding Requirements**

Withholding taxes may be imposed under the provisions of the Code generally known as the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act, or FATCA, on certain types of payments made to non-U.S. financial institutions and certain other non- U.S. entities. Specifically, a 30% withholding tax may be imposed on interest on, or gross proceeds from the sale or disposition of, the Notes paid to a "foreign financial institution" or a "nonfinancial foreign entity" (each as defined in the Code), unless (1) the foreign financial institution undertakes certain diligence and reporting obligations, (2) the non-financial foreign entity either certifies it does not have any "substantial United States owners" (as defined in the Code) or furnishes identifying information regarding each substantial United States owner (generally by providing an IRS Form W-8BEN-E) or (3) the foreign financial institution or non-financial foreign entity otherwise qualifies for an exemption from these rules and provides appropriate documentation (such as an IRS Form W- 8BEN-E). If the payee is a foreign financial institution and is subject to the diligence and reporting requirements in (1) above, it must enter into an agreement with the U.S. Department of Treasury requiring, among other things, that it undertake to identify accounts held by certain "specified United States persons" or "United States-owned foreign entities" (each as defined in the Code), annually report certain information about such accounts and withhold 30% on payments to non-compliant foreign financial institutions and certain other account holders. An intergovernmental agreement between the United States and an applicable foreign country, or future Treasury regulations or other guidance, may modify these requirements. Accordingly, the entity through which the Notes are held will affect the determination of whether such withholding is required.

Under the applicable Treasury regulations, withholding under FATCA generally applies to payments of interest on the Notes from such Notes' date of issuance and will apply to payments of gross proceeds from the sale or other disposition of such Notes on or after January 1, 2019. The FATCA withholding tax will apply to all withholdable payments without regard to whether the beneficial owner of the payment would otherwise be entitled to an exemption from imposition of withholding tax pursuant to an applicable tax treaty with the United States or U.S. domestic law. If payment of this withholding tax is made, holders that are otherwise eligible for an exemption from, or reduction of, U.S. federal withholding taxes with respect to such interest or proceeds will be required to seek a credit or refund from the IRS to obtain the benefit of such exemption or reduction, if any. We will not pay additional amounts to holders of the Notes in respect of any amounts withheld.

Prospective holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the potential application of withholding under FATCA to their investment in the Notes.

***Investors should consult their own tax advisors with respect to the particular tax consequences of an investment in the Notes in their individual circumstances, including the possible effect of any pending legislation or proposed regulations.***

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Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated and J.P. Morgan Securities LLC are acting as representatives of each of the underwriters named below. Subject to the terms and conditions set forth in a purchase agreement among us and the underwriters, we have agreed to sell to the underwriters, and each of the underwriters has agreed, severally and not jointly, to purchase from us, the aggregate principal amount of Notes set forth opposite its name below.

<b><u>Underwriter</u></b>	<b>Principal Amount</b>
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated	\$ 186,963,000
J.P. Morgan Securities LLC	186,963,000
RBC Capital Markets, LLC	69,643,000
SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc.	69,643,000
Barclays Capital Inc.	26,116,000
BMO Capital Markets Corp.	26,116,000
Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC	26,116,000
Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC	26,116,000
Mizuho Securities USA LLC	26,116,000
Wells Fargo Securities, LLC	26,116,000
Citigroup Global Markets Inc.	11,317,000
HSBC Securities (USA) Inc.	11,317,000
SMBC Nikko Securities America, Inc.	11,317,000
U.S. Bancorp Investments, Inc.	11,317,000
BNY Mellon Capital Markets, LLC	4,353,000
Capital One Securities, Inc.	4,353,000
Comerica Securities, Inc.	4,353,000
Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC	4,353,000
ICBC Standard Bank Plc	4,353,000
Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, Inc.	4,353,000
MUFG Securities Americas Inc.	4,353,000
Santander Investment Securities Inc.	4,353,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 750,000,000</b>

ICBC Standard Bank Plc is restricted in its U.S. securities dealings under the United States Bank Holding Company Act and may not underwrite, subscribe, agree to purchase or procure purchasers to purchase notes that are offered or sold in the United States. Accordingly, ICBC Standard Bank Plc shall not be obligated to, and shall not, underwrite, subscribe, agree to purchase or procure purchasers to purchase notes that may be offered or sold by other underwriters in the United States. ICBC Standard Bank Plc shall offer and sell the Securities constituting part of its allotment solely outside the United States.

Subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the purchase agreement, the underwriters have agreed, severally and not jointly, to purchase all of the Notes sold under the purchase agreement if any of these Notes are purchased. If an underwriter defaults, the purchase agreement provides that the purchase commitments of the nondefaulting underwriters may be increased or the purchase agreement may be terminated.

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

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The underwriters are offering the Notes, subject to prior sale, when, as and if issued to and accepted by them, subject to approval of legal matters by their counsel, including the validity of the Notes, and other conditions contained in the purchase agreement, such as the receipt by the underwriters of officer's certificates and legal opinions. The underwriters reserve the right to withdraw, cancel or modify offers to the public and to reject orders in whole or in part.

**Commissions and Discounts**

The following table shows the total underwriting discounts that we are to pay to the underwriters in connection with this offering.

	Per Note	Total
Public offering price	99.921%	\$ 749,407,500
Underwriting discount (sales load)	0.700%	\$ 5,250,000
Proceeds, before expenses, to us	99.221%	\$ 744,157,500

The underwriters propose to offer some of the Notes to the public at the public offering price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement and may offer the Notes to certain other Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) members at the public offering price less a concession not in excess of 0.400% of the aggregate principal amount of the Notes. The underwriters may allow, and the dealers may reallow, a discount not in excess of 0.300% of the aggregate principal amount of the Notes. After the initial offering of the Notes to the public, the public offering price and such concessions may be changed. No such change shall change the amount of proceeds to be received by us as set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement.

The expenses of the offering, not including the underwriting discount, are estimated at approximately \$2.0 million and are payable by us.

**No Sales of Similar Securities**

Subject to certain exceptions, we have agreed not to directly or indirectly, offer, pledge, sell, contract to sell, grant any option for the sale of, or otherwise transfer or dispose of any debt securities issued or guaranteed by the Company or any securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for debt securities issued or guaranteed by the Company or file any registration statement under the Securities Act with respect to any of the foregoing until the settlement date of this offering without first obtaining the written consent of the representatives. This consent may be given at any time without public notice.

**Listing**

The Notes are a new issue of securities with no established trading market. The Notes will not be listed on any securities exchange or quoted on any automated dealer quotation system.

We have been advised by the underwriters that they presently intend to make a market in the Notes after completion of the offering as permitted by applicable laws and regulations. The underwriters are not obligated, however, to make a market in the Notes and any such market-making may be discontinued at any time in the sole discretion of the underwriters without any notice. Accordingly, no assurance can be given as to the liquidity of, or development of a public trading market for, the Notes. If an active public trading market for the Notes does not develop, the market price and liquidity of the Notes may be adversely affected.

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**Price Stabilization, Short Positions**

In connection with the offering, the underwriters may purchase and sell Notes in the open market. These transactions may include short sales and purchases on the open market to cover positions created by short sales. Short sales involve the sale by the underwriters of a greater principal amount of Notes than they are required to purchase in the offering. The underwriters must close out any short position by purchasing Notes in the open market. A short position is more likely to be created if the underwriters are concerned that there may be downward pressure on the price of the Notes in the open market after pricing that could adversely affect investors who purchase in the offering.

Similar to other purchase transactions, the underwriters' purchases to cover the syndicate short sales may have the effect of raising or maintaining the market price of the Notes or preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the Notes. As a result, the price of the Notes may be higher than the price that might otherwise exist in the open market.

The underwriters may also impose a penalty bid. This occurs when a particular underwriter repays to the underwriters a portion of the underwriting discount received by it because the representatives have repurchased Notes sold by or for the account of such underwriter in stabilizing or short covering transactions.

Any of these activities may cause the price of the Notes to be higher than the price that otherwise would exist in the open market in the absence of such transactions. These transactions may be affected in the over-the-counter market or otherwise and, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time without any notice relating thereto.

Neither we nor any of the underwriters make any representation or prediction as to the direction or magnitude of any effect that the transactions described above may have on the price of the Notes. In addition, neither we nor any of the underwriters make any representation that the representatives will engage in these transactions or that these transactions, once commenced, will not be discontinued without notice.

**Electronic Offer, Sale and Distribution of Notes**

The underwriters may make prospectuses available in electronic (PDF) format. A prospectus in electronic (PDF) format may be made available on a web site maintained by the underwriters, and the underwriters may distribute such prospectuses electronically. The underwriters may allocate a limited principal amount of the Notes for sale to their online brokerage customers.

**Other Relationships**

The underwriters and their respective affiliates are full service financial institutions engaged in various activities, which may include sales and trading, commercial and investment banking, advisory, investment management, investment research, principal investment, hedging, market making, brokerage and other financial and non-financial activities and services. The underwriters and their respective affiliates have provided in the past and may provide from time to time in the future in the ordinary course of their business certain commercial banking, financial advisory, investment banking and other services to Ares and its affiliates and managed funds and Ares Capital or our portfolio companies for which they have received or will be entitled to receive separate fees. In particular, the underwriters or their affiliates may execute transactions with Ares Capital or on behalf of Ares Capital, Ares or any of our or their portfolio companies, affiliates and/or managed funds. In addition, the underwriters or their affiliates may act as arrangers, underwriters or placement agents for companies whose securities are sold to or whose loans are syndicated to Ares, Ares Capital or Ares Capital Management and their affiliates and managed funds.

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Affiliates of certain of the underwriters may be limited partners of private investment funds affiliated with our investment adviser, Ares Capital Management.

The underwriters or their affiliates may also trade in our securities, securities of our portfolio companies or other financial instruments related thereto for their own accounts or for the account of others and may extend loans or financing directly or through derivative transactions to Ares, Ares Capital, Ares Capital Management or any of our portfolio companies.

We may purchase securities of third parties from the underwriters or their affiliates after the offering. However, we have not entered into any agreement or arrangement regarding the acquisition of any such securities, and we may not purchase any such securities. We would only purchase any such securities if among other things we identified securities that satisfied our investment needs and completed our due diligence review of such securities.

After the date of this prospectus supplement, the underwriters and their affiliates may from time to time obtain information regarding specific portfolio companies or us that may not be available to the general public. Any such information is obtained by the underwriters and their affiliates in the ordinary course of their business and not in connection with the offering of the Notes. In addition, after the offering period for the sale of the Notes, the underwriters or their affiliates may develop analyses or opinions related to Ares, Ares Capital or our portfolio companies and buy or sell interests in one or more of our portfolio companies on behalf of their proprietary or client accounts and may engage in competitive activities. There is no obligation on behalf of these parties to disclose their respective analyses, opinions or purchase and sale activities regarding any portfolio company or regarding Ares Capital to our noteholders or any other persons.

In the ordinary course of their business activities, the underwriters and their respective affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers. Such investments and securities activities may involve securities and/or instruments of ours or our affiliates. Certain of the underwriters and their affiliates that have a lending relationship with us routinely hedge their credit exposure to us consistent with their customary risk management policies. Typically, such underwriters and their affiliates would hedge such exposure by entering into transactions which consist of either the purchase of credit default swaps or the creation of short positions in our securities, including potentially the Notes. Any such credit default swaps or short positions could adversely affect future trading prices of the Notes. The underwriters and their respective affiliates may also make investment recommendations and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or financial instruments and may hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long and/or short positions in such securities and instruments.

Affiliates of certain of the underwriters serve as agents and/or lenders under our credit facilities or other debt instruments (including the Revolving Credit Facility, the Revolving Funding Facility and the SMBC Funding Facility) and may also be lenders to private investment funds managed by IHAM. JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., an affiliate of J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, is the administrative agent under our Revolving Credit Facility. Wells Fargo Securities, LLC is the agent under the Revolving Funding Facility. Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc., BMO Capital Markets Corp. and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, an affiliate of SMBC Nikko Securities America, Inc., are joint bookrunners and joint lead arrangers for our Revolving Credit Facility. Bank of America, N.A., an affiliate of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, SunTrust Bank, an affiliate of SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc., Bank of Montreal, an affiliate of BMO Capital Markets Corp., and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation are syndication agents with respect to our Revolving Credit Facility. Bank of Montreal and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation are documentation agents with respect to our Revolving Credit Facility. Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation is the administrative

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agent and collateral agent under the SMBC Funding Facility. U.S. Bancorp Investments, Inc. is an affiliate of the trustee under the indenture governing the Notes. Certain of the underwriters and their affiliates were underwriters in connection with our initial public offering and our subsequent common stock offerings, debt offerings and rights offering, for which they received customary fees.

Proceeds of this offering will be used to repay or repurchase outstanding indebtedness under the Revolving Credit Facility, the Revolving Funding Facility and/or the SMBC Funding Facility. Affiliates of certain of the underwriters, including Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc., RBC Capital Markets, LLC, Barclays Capital Inc., BMO Capital Markets Corp., Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC, Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC, Mizuho Securities USA LLC, Capital One Securities, Inc., BNY Mellon Capital Markets, LLC, Citigroup Global Markets Inc., Comerica Securities, Inc., Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC, HSBC Securities (USA) Inc., Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, Inc., ICBC Standard Bank Plc, MUFG Securities Americas Inc., Santander Investment Securities Inc. and SMBC Nikko Securities America, Inc., are lenders under the Revolving Credit Facility. Affiliates of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC are lenders under the Revolving Funding Facility. An affiliate of SMBC Nikko Securities America, Inc. is a lender under the SMBC Funding Facility. Accordingly, affiliates of certain of the underwriters may receive more than 5% of the proceeds of this offering to the extent such proceeds are used to repay or repurchase outstanding indebtedness under the Revolving Credit Facility, the Revolving Funding Facility and/or the SMBC Funding Facility.

The principal business address of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated is One Bryant Park, New York, NY 10036. The principal business address of J.P. Morgan Securities LLC is 383 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10179.

**Notice to Prospective Investors in the European Economic Area**

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area (each, a "Relevant Member State"), no offer of the Notes may be made to the public in that Relevant Member State other than:

- A. to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive;
- B. to fewer than 150 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive), as permitted under the Prospectus Directive, subject to obtaining the prior consent of the representatives; or
- C. in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive, provided that no such offer of the Notes shall require the Company or the representatives to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive or supplement a prospectus pursuant to Article 16 of the Prospectus Directive.

Each person in a Relevant Member State who initially acquires any Notes or to whom any offer is made will be deemed to have represented, acknowledged and agreed that it is a "qualified investor" within the meaning of the law in that Relevant Member State implementing Article 2(1)(e) of the Prospectus Directive. In the case of any Notes being offered to a financial intermediary as that term is used in Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive, each such financial intermediary will be deemed to have represented, acknowledged and agreed that the Notes acquired by it in the offer have not been acquired on a non-discretionary basis on behalf of, nor have they been acquired with a view to their offer or resale to, persons in circumstances which may give rise to an offer of any Notes to the public other than their offer or resale in a Relevant Member State to qualified investors as so defined or in circumstances in which the prior consent of the representatives has been obtained to each such proposed offer or resale.

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The Company, the representatives and their affiliates will rely upon the truth and accuracy of the foregoing representations, acknowledgements and agreements.

This prospectus supplement has been prepared on the basis that any offer of the Notes in any Relevant Member State will be made pursuant to an exemption under the Prospectus Directive from the requirement to publish a prospectus for offers of the Notes. Accordingly any person making or intending to make an offer in that Relevant Member State of the Notes which are the subject of the offering contemplated in this prospectus supplement may only do so in circumstances in which no obligation arises for the Company or any of the underwriters to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive in relation to such offer. Neither the Company nor the underwriters have authorized, nor do they authorize, the making of any offer of Notes in circumstances in which an obligation arises for the Company or the underwriters to publish a prospectus for such offer.

For the purpose of the above provisions, the expression "an offer to the public" in relation to any Notes in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the Notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the Notes, as the same may be varied in the Relevant Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in the Relevant Member State and the expression "Prospectus Directive" means Directive 2003/71/EC (including the 2010 PD Amending Directive, to the extent implemented in the Relevant Member States) and includes any relevant implementing measure in the Relevant Member State and the expression "2010 PD Amending Directive" means Directive 2010/73/EU.

**Notice to Prospective Investors in the United Kingdom**

In addition, in the United Kingdom, this document is being distributed only to, and is directed only at, and any offer subsequently made may only be directed at persons who are "qualified investors" (as defined in the Prospectus Directive) (i) who have professional experience in matters relating to investments falling within Article 19 (5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005, as amended (the "Order") and/or (ii) who are high net worth entities falling within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Order, and other persons to whom it may otherwise lawfully be communicated (all such persons together being referred to as "relevant persons"). This document must not be acted on or relied on in the United Kingdom by persons who are not relevant persons. In the United Kingdom, any investment or investment activity to which this document relates is only available to, and will be engaged in with, relevant persons.



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**LEGAL MATTERS**

Certain legal matters in connection with the offering will be passed upon for us by Proskauer Rose LLP, Los Angeles, California, Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP, Washington, D.C. and Venable LLP, Baltimore, Maryland. Proskauer Rose LLP has from time to time represented the underwriters, Ares and Ares Capital Management on unrelated matters. Certain legal matters in connection with the offering will be passed upon for the underwriters by Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer US LLP.

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**PROSPECTUS**

**\$3,000,000,000**

**Common Stock  
Preferred Stock  
Debt Securities  
Subscription Rights  
Warrants  
Units**

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Ares Capital Corporation is a specialty finance company that is a closed- end, non-diversified management investment company incorporated in Maryland. We have elected to be regulated as a business development company under the Investment Company Act of 1940. Our investment objective is to generate both current income and capital appreciation through debt and equity investments. We invest primarily in first lien senior secured loans (including "unitranche" loans, which are loans that combine both senior and mezzanine debt, generally in a first lien position), second lien senior secured loans and mezzanine debt, which in some cases includes an equity component. To a lesser extent, we also make preferred and/or common equity investments.

We are externally managed by our investment adviser, Ares Capital Management LLC, a subsidiary of Ares Management, L.P., a publicly traded, leading global asset manager. Ares Operations LLC, a subsidiary of Ares Management, L.P., provides certain administrative and other services necessary for us to operate.

Our common stock is traded on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "ARCC." On August 1, 2017 the last reported sales price of our common stock on The NASDAQ Global Select Market was \$16.41 per share. The net asset value per share of our common stock at June 30, 2017 (the last date prior to the date of this prospectus on which we determined net asset value) was \$16.54.

**Investing in our securities involves risks that are described in the "Risk Factors" section beginning on page 25 of this prospectus, including the risk of leverage.**

We may offer, from time to time, in one or more offerings or series, up to \$3,000,000,000 of our common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, subscription rights to purchase shares of our common stock, warrants representing rights to purchase shares of our common stock, preferred stock or debt securities, or units comprised of any combination of the foregoing, which we refer to, collectively, as the "securities." The preferred stock, debt securities, subscription rights and warrants (including as part of a unit) 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) in connection with a rights offering to our existing stockholders, (b) with the prior approval of the majority of our common stockholders or (c) under such circumstances as the SEC may permit. This prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement concisely provide important information about us that you should know before investing in our securities. Please read this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement before you invest and keep it for future reference. We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. This information is available free of charge by calling us collect at (310) 201-4200 or on our website at [www.arescapitalcorp.com](http://www.arescapitalcorp.com). The SEC also maintains a website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) that contains such information.

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**Neither the SEC 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 securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.**

The date of this prospectus is August 4, 2017.

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You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement. We have not authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement is accurate only as of the date on the front cover of this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement, as applicable. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

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**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we have filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), using the "shelf" registration process. Under the shelf registration process, we may offer, from time to time, in one or more offerings or series, up to \$3,000,000,000 of our common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, subscription rights to purchase shares of our common stock, warrants representing rights to purchase shares of our common stock, preferred stock or debt securities, or units comprised of any combination of the foregoing, on 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. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. Please carefully read this prospectus and the prospectus supplement together with any exhibits and the additional information described under the headings "Available Information" and "Risk Factors" before you make an investment decision.

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**PROSPECTUS SUMMARY**

*This summary highlights some of the information contained elsewhere 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 accompanying prospectus supplement. Except where the context suggests otherwise, the terms "we," "us," "our," "the Company" and "Ares Capital" refer to Ares Capital Corporation and its consolidated subsidiaries; "Ares Capital Management" and "our investment adviser" refer to Ares Capital Management LLC; "Ares Operations" and "our administrator" refer to Ares Operations LLC; and "Ares" and "Ares Management" refer to Ares Management, L.P. (NYSE: ARES) and its affiliated companies (other than portfolio companies of its affiliated funds).*

**THE COMPANY**

**Overview**

Ares Capital, a Maryland corporation, is a specialty finance company that is a closed-end, non-diversified management investment company. We have elected to be regulated as a business development company, or a "BDC," under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder or the "Investment Company Act." We were founded on April 16, 2004, were initially funded on June 23, 2004 and completed our initial public offering on October 8, 2004. As of June 30, 2017, we were the largest BDC with approximately \$12.3 billion of total assets.

We are externally managed by our investment adviser, Ares Capital Management, a subsidiary of Ares Management, a publicly traded, leading global alternative asset manager. Our administrator, Ares Operations, a subsidiary of Ares Management, provides certain administrative and other services necessary for us to operate.

Our investment objective is to generate both current income and capital appreciation through debt and equity investments. 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. However, we may from time to time invest in larger or smaller (in particular, for investments in early stage and/or venture capital-backed) companies. We generally use the term "middle-market" to refer to companies with annual EBITDA between \$10 million and \$250 million. As used herein, EBITDA represents net income before net interest expense, income tax expense, depreciation and amortization.

We invest primarily in first lien senior secured loans (including "unitranche" loans, which are loans that combine both senior and mezzanine debt, generally in a first lien position), second lien senior secured loans and mezzanine debt, which in some cases includes an equity component. First and second lien senior secured loans generally are senior debt instruments that rank ahead of subordinated debt of a given portfolio company. Mezzanine debt is subordinated to senior loans and is generally unsecured. Our investments in corporate borrowers generally range between \$30 million and \$500 million each, investments in project finance/power generation projects generally range between \$10 million and \$200 million each and investments in early-stage and/or venture capital-backed companies generally range between \$1 million and \$25 million each. However, the investment sizes may be more or less than these ranges and may vary based on, among other things, our capital availability, the composition of our portfolio and general micro- and macro-economic factors.

To a lesser extent, we also make preferred and/or common equity investments, which have generally been non-control equity investments of less than \$20 million (usually in conjunction with a concurrent debt investment). However, we may increase the size or change the nature of these investments. Also, as a result of the American Capital Acquisition (as defined below), American

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Capital's (as defined below) equity investments, including equity investments pursuant to which American Capital controlled a particular portfolio company, became part of our portfolio.

The proportion of these types of investments will change over time given our views on, among other things, the economic and credit environment in which we are operating. In connection with our investing activities, we may make commitments with respect to indebtedness or securities of a potential portfolio company substantially in excess of our final investment. In such situations, while we may initially agree to fund up to a certain dollar amount of an investment, we may subsequently syndicate or sell a portion of such amount (including, without limitation, to vehicles managed by our portfolio company, Ivy Hill Asset Management, L.P. ("IHAM")), such that we are left with a smaller investment than what was reflected in our original commitment. In addition to originating investments, we may also acquire investments in the secondary market (including purchases of a portfolio of investments).

The first and second lien senior secured loans in which we invest generally have stated terms of three to 10 years and the mezzanine debt investments in which we invest generally have stated terms of up to 10 years, but the expected average life of such first and second lien loans and mezzanine debt is generally between three and seven years. However, we may invest in loans and securities with any maturity or duration. The instruments in which we invest typically are not rated by any rating agency, but we believe that if such instruments were rated, they would be below investment grade (rated lower than "Baa3" by Moody's Investors Service, lower than "BBB " by Fitch Ratings or lower than "BBB " by Standard & Poor's Ratings Services), which, under the guidelines established by these entities, is an indication of having predominantly speculative characteristics with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay interest and repay principal. Bonds that are rated below investment grade are sometimes referred to as "high yield bonds" or "junk bonds." We may invest without limit in debt or other securities of any rating, as well as debt or other securities that have not been rated by any nationally recognized statistical rating organization.

We believe that our investment adviser, Ares Capital Management, is able to leverage the current investment platform, resources and existing relationships of Ares Management with financial sponsors, financial institutions, hedge funds and other investment firms to provide us with attractive investment opportunities. In addition to deal flow, the Ares investment platform assists our investment adviser in analyzing, structuring and monitoring investments. Ares has been in existence for over 15 years and its partners have an average of over 24 years of experience in leveraged finance, private equity, distressed debt, commercial real estate finance, investment banking and capital markets. We have access to Ares' investment professionals and administrative professionals, who provide assistance in accounting, finance, legal, compliance, operations, information technology and investor relations. As of March 31, 2017, Ares had approximately 370 investment professionals and approximately 585 administrative professionals.

While our primary focus is to generate current income and capital appreciation through investments in first and second lien senior secured loans and mezzanine debt and, to a lesser extent, equity securities of eligible portfolio companies, we also may invest up to 30% of our portfolio in non-qualifying assets, as permitted by the Investment Company Act. See "Regulation." Specifically, as part of this 30% basket, we may invest in entities that are not considered "eligible portfolio companies" (as defined in the Investment Company Act), including companies located outside of the United States, entities that are operating pursuant to certain exceptions under the Investment Company Act, and publicly traded entities whose public equity market capitalization exceeds the levels provided for under the Investment Company Act.

In the first quarter of 2011, the staff of the SEC (the "Staff") informally communicated to certain BDCs the Staff's belief that certain entities, which would be classified as an "investment company" under the Investment Company Act but for the exception from the definition of "investment company" set forth in Rule 3a-7 promulgated under the Investment Company Act, could not be treated

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as "eligible portfolio companies" (as defined in Section 2(a)(46) under the Investment Company Act) (i.e., not eligible to be included in a BDC's 70% "qualifying assets" basket). Subsequently, in August 2011 the SEC issued a concept release (the "Concept Release") which stated that "[a]s a general matter, the Commission presently does not believe that Rule 3a-7 issuers are the type of small, developing and financially troubled businesses in which the U.S. Congress intended BDCs primarily to invest" and requested comment on whether or not a 3a-7 issuer should be considered an "eligible portfolio company." We provided a comment letter in respect of the Concept Release and continue to believe that the language of Section 2(a)(46) of the Investment Company Act permits a BDC to treat as "eligible portfolio companies" entities that rely on the 3a-7 exception. However, given the current uncertainty in this area (including the language in the Concept Release) and subsequent discussions with the Staff, we have, solely for purposes of calculating the composition of our portfolio pursuant to Section 55(a) of the Investment Company Act, identified such entities, which include the SSLP (as defined below), as "non-qualifying assets" should the Staff ultimately disagree with our position.

**The American Capital Acquisition**

On January 3, 2017 (the Acquisition Date), we completed our acquisition (the "American Capital Acquisition") of American Capital, Ltd. ("American Capital") in a cash and stock transaction valued at approximately \$4.2 billion. In connection with the stock consideration, we issued approximately 112 million shares of our common stock to American Capital's then-existing stockholders (including holders of outstanding in-the-money American Capital stock options), thereby resulting in our then-existing stockholders owning approximately 73.7% of the combined company and then-existing American Capital stockholders owning approximately 26.3% of the combined company. See Note 14 to our consolidated financial statements for the three and six months ended June 30, 2017 and Note 16 to our consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2016 for additional information regarding the American Capital Acquisition.

In connection with the American Capital Acquisition, Ares Capital Management has agreed to waive up to \$100 million in income based fees from us for the first ten calendar quarters beginning with the second quarter of 2017, in an amount equal to the lesser of (1) \$10 million of the income based fees and (2) the amount of income based fees for each such quarter, in each case, to the extent earned and payable by us in such quarter pursuant to and as calculated under our investment advisory and management agreement (the "Fee Waiver").

**Co-Investment Programs**

*Senior Direct Lending Program*

We established a joint venture with Varagon Capital Partners ("Varagon") to make certain first lien senior secured loans, including certain stretch senior and unitranche loans, primarily to U.S. middle-market companies. Varagon was formed in 2013 as a lending platform by American International Group, Inc. (NYSE:AIG) and other partners. The joint venture is called the Senior Direct Lending Program (the "SDLP"). The SDLP may generally commit and hold individual loans of up to \$300 million. We may directly co-invest with the SDLP to accommodate larger transactions. The SDLP is capitalized as transactions are completed and all portfolio decisions and generally all other decisions in respect of the SDLP must be approved by an investment committee of the SDLP consisting of representatives of the Company and Varagon (with approval from a representative of each required).

We provide capital to the SDLP in the form of subordinated certificates (the "SDLP Certificates"), and Varagon and its clients provide capital to the SDLP in the form of senior notes, intermediate funding notes and SDLP Certificates. As of June 30, 2017, we and a client of Varagon owned 87.5% and 12.5%, respectively, of the outstanding SDLP Certificates.



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As of June 30, 2017, we and Varagon and its clients have agreed to make capital available to the SDLP of \$2.9 billion in the aggregate, of which approximately \$1.9 billion has been funded. As of June 30, 2017, we agreed to make available to the SDLP (subject to the approval of the investment committee of the SDLP as described above) \$591 million, of which \$394 million was funded. As of June 30, 2017, the SDLP had commitments to fund delayed draw loans to certain of its portfolio companies of \$173 million, which had been approved by the investment committee of the SDLP as described above, of which \$36 million was committed by us. As of June 30, 2017, the amortized cost and fair value of the SDLP Certificates held by us were \$394 million and \$394 million, respectively, which represented approximately 3.4% of our total portfolio at fair value. As of June 30, 2017, the SDLP had 17 different underlying borrowers. For more information on the SDLP, see "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Portfolio and Investment Activity Senior Direct Lending Program."

***Senior Secured Loan Program***

We and General Electric Capital Corporation ("GECC") and GE Global Sponsor Finance LLC (collectively, "GE") have co-invested in first lien senior secured loans of middle market companies through an unconsolidated Delaware limited liability company, the Senior Secured Loan Fund LLC (d/b/a "the Senior Secured Loan Program") or the SSLP (the "SSLP"). The SSLP has been capitalized as transactions are completed. All portfolio decisions and generally all other decisions in respect of the SSLP must be approved by an investment committee of the SSLP consisting of our representatives and the representatives of GE (with approval from a representative of each required). We have provided capital to the SSLP in the form of subordinated certificates (the "SSLP Certificates").

In August 2015, GE completed the sale of its U.S. Sponsor Finance business, through which GE had participated with us in the SSLP, to Canada Pension Plan Investment Board ("CPPIB"). This sale excluded GE's interest in the SSLP, and we and GE continue to operate the SSLP. We and GE no longer have an obligation to present senior secured lending investment opportunities to the SSLP and since June 30, 2015, the SSLP has not made any investments related to new portfolio companies. On August 24, 2015, we were advised that GECC, as the holder of the senior notes of the SSLP (the "Senior Notes"), directed State Street Bank and Trust Company, as trustee of the Senior Notes and the SSLP Certificates, pursuant to the terms of the indenture governing the Senior Notes and the SSLP Certificates, to apply all principal proceeds received by the SSLP from its investments to the repayment of the outstanding principal amount of the Senior Notes until paid in full (prior to the distribution of any such principal proceeds to the holders of the SSLP Certificates, which includes us). GECC had previously elected to waive its right to receive priority repayments on the Senior Notes from principal proceeds in most circumstances.

As of June 30, 2017, we and GE had outstanding amounts funded of approximately \$2.9 billion in aggregate principal amount to the SSLP. As of June 30, 2017, the SSLP had commitments to fund delayed draw loans to certain of its portfolio companies of \$50 million, which had been approved by the investment committee of the SSLP as described above. As of June 30, 2017, we had funded approximately \$2.0 billion in aggregate principal amount to the SSLP. Additionally, as of June 30, 2017, we had commitments to co-invest in the SSLP for our portion of the SSLP's commitments to fund delayed draw loans to portfolio companies of up to \$7 million. As of June 30, 2017, the amortized cost and fair value of the SSLP Certificates held by us were \$1.9 billion and \$1.9 billion (including unrealized depreciation of \$18 million), respectively, which represented approximately 16.7% of our total portfolio at fair value. As of June 30, 2017, the SSLP had 11 different underlying borrowers. For more information on the SSLP, see "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Portfolio and Investment Activity Senior Secured Loan Program" and "Recent Developments."

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**Ivy Hill Asset Management, L.P.**

As of June 30, 2017, our portfolio company, IHAM, an SEC-registered investment adviser, managed 23 vehicles and served as the sub-manager/sub-servicer for two other vehicles (such vehicles, the "IHAM Vehicles"). As of June 30, 2017, IHAM had assets under management of approximately \$4.3 billion. As of June 30, 2017 Ares Capital had invested approximately \$244 million (at amortized cost) in IHAM. In connection with IHAM's registration as a registered investment adviser, on March 30, 2012, we received exemptive relief from the SEC allowing us to, subject to certain conditions, own directly or indirectly up to 100% of IHAM's outstanding equity interests and make additional investments in IHAM. From time to time, IHAM or certain IHAM Vehicles may purchase investments from us or sell investments to us, in each case for a price equal to the fair market value of such investments determined at the time of such transactions.

On May 19, 2017, pursuant to approval granted at a special meeting of stockholders of American Capital Senior Floating, Ltd. ("ACSF"), IHAM entered into a new management agreement with ACSF, a Maryland corporation that has elected to be regulated as a BDC under the Investment Company Act, pursuant to which IHAM serves as ACSF's investment adviser.

See Note 4 to our consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2016 and the three and six months ended June 30, 2017 for more information about IHAM and Note 16 to our consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2016 and Note 14 to our consolidated financial statements for the six months ended June 30, 2017 for information related to IHAM's role in the American Capital Acquisition.

**Ares Capital Management LLC**

Ares Capital Management, our investment adviser, is served by an origination, investment and portfolio management team of approximately 100 U.S.-based investment professionals as of March 31, 2017 and led by certain partners of the Ares Credit Group: Michael Arougheti, Kipp deVeer, Mitchell Goldstein and Michael Smith. Ares Capital Management leverages off of Ares' investment platform and benefits from the significant capital markets, trading and research expertise of Ares' investment professionals. Ares Capital Management's investment committee has eight members comprised of certain of the U.S.-based partners of the Ares Credit Group.

**MARKET OPPORTUNITY**

We believe that current market conditions present attractive opportunities for us to invest in middle-market companies, specifically:

We believe that many commercial and investment banks have, in recent years, de-emphasized their service and product offerings to middle-market businesses in favor of lending to large corporate clients and managing capital markets transactions. In addition, these lenders may be constrained in their ability to underwrite and hold bank loans and high yield securities for middle-market issuers as they seek to meet existing and future regulatory capital requirements. These factors may result in opportunities for alternative funding sources to middle-market companies and therefore more new-issue market opportunities for us.

We believe disruption and volatility that occurs periodically in the credit markets, reduces capital available to certain capital providers, causing a reduction in competition. When these volatile market conditions occur, they often create opportunities to achieve attractive risk-adjusted returns.

We believe that there is a lack of market participants that are willing to hold meaningful amounts of certain middle-market loans. As a result, we believe our ability to minimize

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syndication risk for a company seeking financing by being able to hold our loans without having to syndicate them is a competitive advantage.

We believe that middle-market companies have faced difficulty in raising debt through the capital markets. This approach to financing may become more difficult to the extent institutional investors seek to invest in larger, more liquid offerings, leaving less competition and fewer financing alternatives for middle-market companies.

We believe there is a large pool of un-invested private equity capital for middle-market businesses. We expect private equity firms will seek to leverage their investments by combining equity capital with senior secured loans and mezzanine debt from other sources such as us.

**COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES**

We believe that we have the following competitive advantages over other capital providers to middle-market companies:

**The Ares Platform**

Ares operates three distinct but complementary investment groups, including the Ares Credit Group, the Ares Private Equity Group and the Ares Real Estate Group. We believe Ares' current investment platform provides a competitive advantage in terms of access to origination and marketing activities and diligence for us. In particular, we believe that the Ares platform provides us with an advantage through its deal flow generation and investment evaluation process. Ares' asset management platform also provides additional market information, company knowledge and industry insight that benefit our investment and due diligence process. Ares' professionals maintain extensive financial sponsor and intermediary relationships, which provide valuable insight and access to transactions and information.

**Seasoned Management Team**

The investment professionals in the Ares Credit Group and members of our investment adviser's investment committee also have significant experience investing across market cycles. This experience also provides us with a competitive advantage in identifying, originating, investing in and managing a portfolio of investments in middle-market companies.

**Broad Origination Strategy**

We focus on self-originating most of our investments by pursuing a broad array of investment opportunities in middle-market companies, venture capital backed businesses and power generation projects across multiple channels. We also leverage off of the extensive relationships of the broader Ares platform, including relationships with the portfolio companies in the IHAM Vehicles, to identify investment opportunities. We believe that this allows for asset selectivity and that there is a significant relationship between proprietary deal origination and credit performance. We believe that our focus on generating proprietary deal flow and lead investing also gives us greater control over capital structure, deal terms, pricing and documentation and enables us to actively manage our portfolio investments. Moreover, by leading the investment process, we are often able to secure controlling positions in credit tranches, thereby providing additional control in investment outcomes. We also have originated substantial proprietary deal flow from middle-market intermediaries, which often allows us to act as the sole or principal source of institutional capital to the borrower.

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**Scale and Flexible Transaction Structuring**

We believe that being the largest BDC makes us a more desirable and flexible capital provider, especially in competitive markets. We are flexible with the types of investments we make and the terms associated with those investments. We believe this approach and experience enables our investment adviser to identify attractive investment opportunities throughout economic cycles and across a company's capital structure so we can make investments consistent with our stated investment objective and preserve principal while seeking appropriate risk adjusted returns. In addition, we have the flexibility to provide "one stop" financing with the ability to invest capital across the balance sheet and syndicate and hold larger investments than many of our competitors. We believe that the ability to underwrite, syndicate and hold larger investments benefits our stockholders by (a) potentially increasing net income and earnings through syndication, (b) increasing originated deal flow flexibility, (c) broadening market relationships and deal flow, (d) allowing us to optimize our portfolio composition and (e) allowing us to provide capital to a broader spectrum of middle-market companies, which we believe currently have limited access to capital from traditional lending sources. In addition, we believe that the ability to provide capital at every level of the balance sheet provides a strong value proposition to middle-market borrowers and our senior debt capabilities provide superior deal origination and relative value analysis capabilities compared to traditional "mezzanine only" lenders.

**Experience with and Focus on Middle-Market Companies**

Ares has historically focused on investments in middle-market companies and we benefit from this experience. In sourcing and analyzing deals, our investment adviser benefits from Ares' extensive network of relationships focused on middle-market companies, including management teams, members of the investment banking community, private equity groups and other investment firms with whom Ares has had long-term relationships. We believe this network enables us to identify well-positioned prospective portfolio company investments. The Ares Credit Group works closely with Ares' other investment professionals. As of March 31, 2017, Ares oversaw a portfolio of investments in over 1,300 companies, approximately 565 structured assets and over 160 properties across over 60 industries, which provides access to an extensive network of relationships and insights into industry trends and the state of the capital markets.

**Disciplined Investment Philosophy**

In making its investment decisions, our investment adviser has adopted Ares' long-standing, consistent, credit-based investment approach that was developed over 20 years ago by its founders. Specifically, our investment adviser's investment philosophy, portfolio construction and portfolio management involve an assessment of the overall macroeconomic environment and financial markets and company-specific research and analysis. Its investment approach emphasizes capital preservation, low volatility and minimization of downside risk. In addition to engaging in extensive due diligence from the perspective of a long-term investor, our investment adviser's approach seeks to reduce risk in investments by focusing on:

businesses with strong franchises and sustainable competitive advantages;

industries with positive long-term dynamics;

businesses and industries with cash flows that are dependable and predictable;

management teams with demonstrated track records and appropriate economic incentives;

rates of return commensurate with the perceived risks;

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securities or investments that are structured with appropriate terms and covenants; and

businesses backed by experienced private equity sponsors.

**Extensive Industry Focus**

We seek to concentrate our investing activities in industries with a history of predictable and dependable cash flows and in which the Ares investment professionals have had extensive investment experience. Ares investment professionals have developed long-term relationships with management teams and management consultants in over 50 industries, and have accumulated substantial information and identified potential trends within these industries. In turn, we benefit from these relationships, information and identification of potential trends in making investments.

**OPERATING AND REGULATORY STRUCTURE**

Our investment activities are managed by our investment adviser, Ares Capital Management, which is a subsidiary of Ares, and supervised by our board of directors, a majority of whom are independent of Ares and its affiliates. Ares Capital Management is registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, or the "Advisers Act." Under our Amended and Restated Investment Advisory and Management Agreement with Ares Capital Management, referred to herein as our "investment advisory and management agreement," we have agreed to pay Ares Capital Management base management fees based on our total assets, as defined under the Investment Company Act (other than cash and cash equivalents, but including assets purchased with borrowed funds) ("base management fees"), fees based on our net investment income ("income based fees") and fees based on our net capital gains ("capital gains incentive fees"). See "Management Investment Advisory and Management Agreement." Ares Operations provides us with certain administrative and other services necessary for us to operate pursuant to an Amended and Restated Administration Agreement, referred to herein as our "administration agreement." See "Management Administration Agreement."

As a BDC, we are required to comply with certain regulatory requirements. For example, we are not generally permitted to co-invest in any portfolio company in which a fund managed by Ares or any of its downstream affiliates (other than us and our downstream affiliates) currently has an investment. However, we may co-invest with funds managed by Ares or any of its downstream affiliates, subject to compliance with existing regulatory guidance, applicable regulations and our allocation procedures. On January 18, 2017, we received an order from the SEC that permits us and other business development companies and registered closed-end management investment companies managed by Ares to co-invest in portfolio companies with each other and with affiliated investment funds (the "Order"). Co-investments made under the Order are subject to compliance with the conditions and other requirements contained in the Order, which could limit our ability to participate in a co-investment transaction.

Also, while we may borrow funds to make investments, our ability to use debt is limited in certain significant aspects. See "Business Operating and Regulatory Structure" and "Regulation." In particular, BDCs must have at least 200% asset coverage calculated pursuant to the Investment Company Act (i.e., we are permitted to borrow one dollar for every dollar we have in assets less all liabilities and indebtedness not represented by senior securities issued by us) in order to incur debt or issue preferred stock (which we refer to collectively as "senior securities"), which requires us to finance our investments with at least as much equity as senior securities in the aggregate. Certain of our credit facilities also require that we maintain asset coverage of at least 200%. As of June 30, 2017, our asset coverage was 242% (excluding the SBA Debentures (as defined below)).

In addition, as a consequence of us being a regulated investment company ("RIC") under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") for U.S. federal income tax purposes, our asset growth is dependent on our ability to raise equity capital through the issuance of common stock.

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RICs generally must distribute substantially all of their investment company taxable income (as defined under the Code) to stockholders as dividends in order to preserve their status as a RIC and not be subject to additional U.S. federal corporate-level taxes. This requirement, in turn, generally prevents us from using our earnings to support our operations, including making new investments. See "Certain Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations."

**ACQUISITION OPPORTUNITIES**

We believe the recent volatility in the credit markets has increased the likelihood of further consolidation in our industry. From time to time, we evaluate potential strategic opportunities, including acquisitions of:

asset portfolios;

other private and public finance companies, business development companies and asset managers; and

selected secondary market assets.

In this regard, on January 3, 2017, we completed the American Capital Acquisition. See " The American Capital Acquisition" below for more information.

We have been in, and from time to time may engage in, discussions with counterparties in respect of various potential strategic acquisition and investment transactions, including potential acquisitions of other finance companies, business development companies and asset managers. Some of these transactions could be material to our business and, if completed, could be difficult to integrate, result in increased leverage or dilution and/or subject us to unexpected liabilities. However, none of these discussions has progressed to the point at which the completion of any such transaction could be deemed to be probable or reasonably certain as of the date of this prospectus. Completion of any such transaction would be subject to completion of due diligence, finalization of key business and financial terms (including price) and negotiation of final definitive documentation as well as a number of other factors and conditions including, without limitation, the approval of our board of directors, any required third party consents and, in certain cases, the approval of our stockholders. We cannot predict how quickly the terms of any such transaction could be finalized, if at all. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that such transaction would be completed. We have incurred, and may in the future incur, significant expenses in connection with evaluating potential strategic acquisition and investment transactions.

**INDEBTEDNESS**

As of June 30, 2017, we had approximately \$4.9 billion in aggregate principal amount of total outstanding indebtedness, approximately \$3.1 billion aggregate principal amount of which was unsecured indebtedness of Ares Capital, approximately \$920 million aggregate principal amount of which was secured indebtedness at the Ares Capital level and approximately \$870 million aggregate principal amount of which was secured indebtedness of our consolidated subsidiaries.

For more information on our debt, see "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Financial Condition, Liquidity and Capital Resources."

**RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

As of June 30, 2017, our investment in the SSLP Certificates at amortized cost and fair value was \$1.9 billion and \$1.9 billion, respectively. As of June 30, 2017, the SSLP had \$1.2 billion in cash and GE's Senior Notes outstanding totaled \$601 million. In early July 2017, the SSLP made its monthly waterfall distribution from this cash, which fully repaid GE's Senior Notes and included distributions to

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the SSLP Certificates. From this distribution, our SSLP Certificates received \$474 million. After this distribution, our amortized cost in our SSLP Certificates was \$1.5 billion.

In addition, in July 2017, we and GE agreed to an early termination of the SSLP whereby on July 26, 2017, we purchased the remaining \$1.6 billion in aggregate principal amount of first lien senior secured loans outstanding at par plus accrued and unpaid interest and fees from the SSLP (the "SSLP Loan Sale") and assumed the SSLP's remaining unfunded loan commitments totaling \$50 million. Upon completion of the SSLP Loan Sale, the SSLP made a liquidation distribution to the SSLP Certificates (the "Liquidation Distribution"), of which we received \$1.5 billion. In connection with the Liquidation Distribution, we recognized an \$18 million net realized loss as a result of the early termination. After completion of the transactions above, the operations of the SSLP were effectively terminated pursuant to the terms of the documents governing the SSLP and the SSLP will no longer have an obligation to fund existing commitments and other amounts to its former portfolio companies.

Excluding the loans acquired from the SSLP described above, from July 1, 2017 through July 26, 2017, we made new investment commitments of approximately \$128 million, of which \$101 million were funded. Of these new commitments, 99% were in first lien senior secured loans and 1% were in investments in the SDLP Certificates to make co-investments with Varagon and its clients in floating rate first lien senior secured loans through the SDLP. Of the approximately \$128 million of new investment commitments, 100% were floating rate. The weighted average yield of debt and other income producing securities funded during the period at amortized cost was 7.6%. We may seek to sell all or a portion of these new investment commitments, although there can be no assurance that we will be able to do so.

Excluding the repayments of the SSLP Certificates described above, from July 1, 2017 through July 26, 2017, we exited approximately \$327 million of investment commitments, including \$276 million of investment commitments acquired in the American Capital Acquisition. Of the total investment commitments, 46% were other equity securities, 25% were second lien senior secured loans, 13% were preferred equity securities, 13% were first lien senior secured loans, 1% were senior subordinated loans, 1% were collateralized loan obligations and 1% were investments in the SDLP Certificates. Of the approximately \$327 million of exited investment commitments, 59% were non-interest bearing, 40% were floating rate and 1% were fixed rate. The weighted average yield of debt and other income producing securities exited or repaid during the period at amortized cost was 9.6% and the weighted average yield on total investments exited or repaid during the period at amortized cost was 4.1%. On the approximately \$327 million of investment commitments exited from July 1, 2017 through July 26, 2017, we recognized total net realized gains of approximately \$61 million, including net realized gains of approximately \$60 million on investment commitments exited that were acquired in the American Capital Acquisition.

In addition, as of July 26, 2017, we had an investment backlog and pipeline of approximately \$530 million and \$325 million, respectively. Investment backlog includes transactions approved by our investment adviser's investment committee and/or for which a formal mandate, letter of intent or a signed commitment have been issued, and therefore we believe are likely to close. Investment pipeline includes transactions where due diligence and analysis are in process, but no formal mandate, letter of intent or signed commitment have been issued. The consummation of any of the investments in this backlog and pipeline depends upon, among other things, one or more of the following: satisfactory completion of our due diligence investigation of the prospective portfolio company, our acceptance of the terms and structure of such investment and the execution and delivery of satisfactory transaction documentation. In addition, we may sell all or a portion of these investments and certain of these investments may result in the repayment of existing investments. We cannot assure you that we will make any of these investments or that we will sell all or any portion of these investments.

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**RISK FACTORS**

Investing in Ares Capital involves risks. The following is a summary of the principal risks that you should carefully consider before investing in our securities. In addition, see "Risk Factors" beginning on page 25 for a more detailed discussion of the principal risks as well as certain other risks you should carefully consider before deciding to invest in our securities.

The capital markets may experience periods of disruption and instability. Such market conditions may materially and adversely affect debt and equity capital markets, which may have a negative impact on our business and operations.

Uncertainty about the financial stability of the United States, China and several countries in Europe could have a significant adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Our shares of common stock have traded at a discount from net asset value and may do so again, which could limit our ability to raise additional equity capital.

A failure on our part to maintain our status as a BDC would significantly reduce our operating flexibility and a failure to maintain our status as a RIC may subject us to additional corporate-level income taxes.

We are dependent upon certain key personnel of Ares for our future success and upon their access to other Ares investment professionals.

We may be unable to realize the benefits anticipated by the American Capital Acquisition, including estimated cost savings and synergies, or it may take longer than anticipated to achieve such benefits.

Our ability to grow depends on our ability to raise capital.

We borrow money, which magnifies the potential for gain or loss on amounts invested, subjects us to certain covenants with which we must comply and may increase the risk of investing with us.

We operate in a highly competitive market for investment opportunities.

We are exposed to risks associated with changes in interest rates.

Most of our portfolio investments are not publicly traded and, as a result, the fair value of these investments may not be readily determinable. Additionally, to the extent that we need liquidity and need to sell assets, the lack of liquidity in our investments may adversely affect our business.

Our financial condition and results of operations could be negatively affected if a significant investment fails to perform as expected.

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



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Declines in market prices and liquidity in the corporate debt markets can result in significant net unrealized depreciation of our portfolio, which in turn would reduce our net asset value.

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

Our investments, which are primarily in middle-market companies, may be risky and we could lose all or part of our investment.

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Our portfolio companies may be highly leveraged.

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

**OUR CORPORATE INFORMATION**

Our administrative offices are located at 2000 Avenue of the Stars, 12th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90067, telephone number (310) 201-4200, and our executive offices are located at 245 Park Avenue, 44th Floor, New York, New York 10167, telephone number (212) 750-7300.

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**OFFERINGS**

We may offer, from time to time, in one or more offerings or series, up to \$3,000,000,000 of our common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, subscription rights to purchase shares of our common stock, warrants representing rights to purchase shares of our common stock, preferred stock or debt securities, or units comprised of any combination of the foregoing, 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. The offering price per share of our common stock, less any underwriting commissions or discounts, generally will not be less than the net asset value per share of our common stock at the time of an 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) in connection with a rights offering to our existing stockholders, (b) with the prior approval of the majority of our common stockholders or (c) under such other circumstances as the SEC may permit. Any such issuance of shares of our common stock below net asset value may be dilutive to the net asset value of our common stock. See "Risk Factors Risks Relating to Offerings Pursuant to this Prospectus."

Pursuant to approval granted at a special meeting of stockholders held on May 22, 2017, we currently are permitted to sell or otherwise issue shares of our common stock at a price below net asset value, subject to certain limitations and determinations that must be made by our board of directors. Such stockholder approval expires on May 22, 2018.

We may offer our securities directly to one or more purchasers, including existing stockholders in a rights offering, through agents that we designate from time to time or to or through underwriters or dealers. The prospectus supplement relating to each offering will identify any agents or underwriters involved in the sale of our securities, and will set forth 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 our securities through agents, underwriters or dealers without delivery of a prospectus supplement describing the method and terms of the offering of our securities.

Set forth below is additional information regarding offerings of our securities:

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 include, among other things, (a) investing in portfolio companies in accordance with our investment objective 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."

Distributions

We currently intend to pay dividends or make other distributions to our stockholders on a quarterly basis out of assets legally available for distribution. We may also pay additional dividends or make additional distributions to our stockholders from time to time. Our quarterly and additional dividends or distributions, if any, will be determined by our board of directors. For more information, see "Price Range of Common Stock and Distributions."

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Taxation	We have elected to be treated as a RIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As a RIC, we generally will not pay U.S. federal corporate-level income taxes on any income and gain that we distribute to our stockholders as dividends on a timely basis. Among other things, in order to maintain our RIC status, we must meet specified source of income and asset diversification requirements and distribute annually generally an amount equal to at least 90% of our investment company taxable income, out of assets legally available for distribution. See "Risk Factors Risks Relating to Our Business We may be subject to additional corporate-level income taxes if we fail to maintain our status as a RIC" and "Price Range of Common Stock and Distributions."
Dividend reinvestment plan	We have a dividend reinvestment plan for our stockholders. This is an "opt out" dividend reinvestment plan. As a result, if we declare a cash dividend, then stockholders' 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. Stockholders whose cash dividends are reinvested in additional shares of our common stock will be subject to the same U.S. federal, state and local tax consequences as stockholders who elect to receive their dividends in cash. See "Dividend Reinvestment Plan."
The NASDAQ Global Select Market symbol	"ARCC"
Anti-takeover provisions	Our board of directors is divided into three classes of directors serving staggered three-year terms. This structure is intended to provide us with a greater likelihood of continuity of management, which may be necessary for us to realize the full value of our investments. A staggered board of directors also may serve to deter hostile takeovers or proxy contests, as may certain other measures adopted by us. See "Description of Our Capital Stock."
Leverage	We borrow funds to make additional investments. We use this practice, which is known as "leverage," to attempt to increase returns to our stockholders, but it involves significant risks. See "Risk Factors," "Senior Securities" and "Regulation Indebtedness and Senior Securities." With certain limited exceptions, we are only allowed to borrow amounts such that our asset coverage, as calculated pursuant to the Investment Company Act, equals at least 200% after such borrowing. The amount of leverage that we employ at any particular time will depend on our investment adviser's and our board of directors' assessments of market and other factors at the time of any proposed borrowing.

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Management arrangements

Ares Capital Management serves as our investment adviser. Ares Operations serves as our administrator. For a description of Ares Capital Management, Ares Operations, Ares and our contractual arrangements with these companies, see "Management Investment Advisory and Management Agreement," and " Administration Agreement."

Available information

We are required to file periodic reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. This information is available free of charge by calling us collect at (310) 201-4200 or on our website at [www.arescapitalcorp.com](http://www.arescapitalcorp.com). Information contained on our website is not incorporated into this prospectus and you should not consider such information to be part of this prospectus. Such information is also available from the EDGAR database on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

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The following table is intended to assist you in understanding the costs and expenses that an investor in our common stock will bear, directly or indirectly, based on the assumptions set forth below. 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 table contains a reference to our fees or expenses, we will pay such fees and expenses out of our net assets and, consequently, stockholders will indirectly bear such fees or expenses as investors in Ares Capital.

<b>Stockholder transaction expenses (as a percentage of offering price):</b>	
Sales load	(1)
Offering expenses	(2)
Dividend reinvestment plan expenses	Up to \$15 Transaction Fee (3)
<b>Total stockholder transaction expenses paid</b>	<b>(4)</b>
<b>Annual expenses (as a percentage of consolidated net assets attributable to common stock)(5):</b>	
Base management fees	2.64%(6)
Income based fees and capital gains incentive fees	1.71%(7)
Interest payments on borrowed funds	3.19%(8)
Other expenses	1.49%(9)
Acquired fund fees and expenses	0.61%(10)
 Total annual expenses	 9.64%(11)

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- (1) In the event that the securities to which this prospectus relates are sold to or through underwriters, a corresponding prospectus supplement will disclose the applicable sales load (underwriting discount or commission). Purchases of shares of our common stock on the secondary market are not subject to sales charges but may be subject to brokerage commissions or other charges. The table does not include any sales load that stockholders may have paid in connection with their purchase of shares of our common stock.
- (2) The related prospectus supplement will disclose the estimated amount of offering expenses, the offering price and the offering expenses borne by us as a percentage of the offering price.
- (3) The expenses of the dividend reinvestment plan are included in "Other expenses." The plan administrator's fees under the plan are paid by us. If a participant elects by notice to the plan administrator in advance of termination to have the plan administrator sell part or all of the shares held by the plan administrator in the participant's account and remit the proceeds to the participant, the plan administrator is authorized to deduct a transaction fee of up to \$15 plus a \$0.12 per share fee from the proceeds. See "Dividend Reinvestment Plan" for more information.
- (4) The related prospectus supplement will disclose the offering price and the total stockholder transaction expenses as a percentage of the offering price.
- (5)

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The "consolidated net assets attributable to common stock" used to calculate the percentages in this table is our average net assets of \$7.0 billion for the six months ended June 30, 2017.

(6)

Our base management fee is currently 1.5% of our total assets (other than cash and cash equivalents) (which includes assets purchased with borrowed amounts). Our base management fee has been estimated by multiplying our average total assets (assuming we maintain no cash or cash equivalents) for the six months ended June 30, 2017 by 1.5%. The 2.64% reflected on the table is higher than 1.5% because it is calculated on our average net assets (rather than our average total

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assets) for the same period. See "Management Investment Advisory and Management Agreement."

(7)

This item represents our investment adviser's income based fees and capital gains incentive fees estimated by annualizing income based fees for the six months ended June 30, 2017, as adjusted to take into account the Fee Waiver described below, and the capital gains incentive fee expense accrued in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") for the six months ended June 30, 2017, even though no capital gains incentive fee was actually payable under the investment advisory and management agreement as of June 30, 2017.

GAAP requires that the capital gains incentive fee accrual consider the cumulative aggregate unrealized capital appreciation in the calculation, as a capital gains incentive fee would be payable if such unrealized capital appreciation were realized, even though such unrealized capital appreciation is not permitted to be considered in calculating the fee actually payable under the Investment Company Act or the investment advisory and management agreement. This GAAP accrual is calculated using the aggregate cumulative realized capital gains and losses and aggregate cumulative unrealized capital depreciation included in the calculation of the capital gains incentive fee actually payable under the investment advisory and management agreement plus the aggregate cumulative unrealized capital appreciation. If such amount is positive at the end of a period, then GAAP requires us to record a capital gains incentive fee equal to 20% of such cumulative amount, less the aggregate amount of actual capital gains incentive fees paid or capital gains incentive fees accrued under GAAP in all prior periods. The resulting accrual for any capital gains incentive fee under GAAP in a given period may result in an additional expense if such cumulative amount is greater than in the prior period or a reversal of previously recorded expense if such cumulative amount is less than in the prior period. If such cumulative amount is negative, then there is no accrual. There can be no assurance that such unrealized capital appreciation will be realized in the future or that the amount accrued for will ultimately be paid.

For purposes of this table, we have assumed that these fees will be payable (in the case of the capital gains incentive fee) and that they will remain constant, although they are based on our performance and will not be paid unless we achieve certain goals. We expect to invest or otherwise utilize all of the net proceeds from securities registered under the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part pursuant to a particular prospectus supplement within three months of the date of the offering pursuant to such prospectus supplement and may have capital gains and interest income that could result in the payment of these fees to our investment adviser in the first year after completion of offerings pursuant to this prospectus. Since our initial public offering through June 30, 2017, the average quarterly fees accrued related to income based fees and capital gains incentive fees (including capital gains incentive fees accrued under GAAP even though they may not be payable) has been approximately 0.67% of our weighted average net assets (2.70% on an annualized basis). For more detailed information on the calculation of our income based fees and capital gains incentive fees, please see below. For more detailed information about income based fees and capital gains incentive fees previously incurred by us, please see Note 3 to our consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2016 and the six months ended June 30, 2017.

Income based fees are payable quarterly in arrears in an amount equal to 20% of our pre-incentive fee net investment income (including interest that is accrued but not yet received in cash), subject to a 1.75% quarterly (7.0% annualized) hurdle rate and a "catch-up" provision measured as of the end of each calendar quarter. Under this provision, in any calendar quarter, our investment adviser receives no income based fees until our net investment income equals the hurdle rate of 1.75% but then receives, as a "catch-up," 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 rate but is less than 2.1875%. The effect of this provision is that, if pre-incentive fee net



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investment income exceeds 2.1875% in any calendar quarter, our investment adviser will receive 20% of our pre-incentive fee net investment income as if a hurdle rate did not apply.

In connection with the American Capital Acquisition, our investment adviser has agreed to the Fee Waiver, and as a result will waive, for each of the first ten calendar quarters beginning in the second quarter of 2017, the lesser of (a) \$10 million of the income based fees and (b) the amount of income based fees for such quarter, in each case, to the extent earned and payable by us in such quarter pursuant to and as calculated under our investment advisory and management agreement.

Capital gains incentive fees are payable annually in arrears in an amount equal to 20% of our realized capital gains on a cumulative basis from inception through the end of the year, if any, computed net of all realized capital losses and unrealized capital depreciation on a cumulative basis, less the aggregate amount of capital gains incentive fees paid in all prior years.

We will defer cash payment of any income based fees and capital gains incentive fees otherwise earned by our investment adviser if, during the most recent four full calendar quarter period ending on or prior to the date such payment is to be made, the sum of (a) our aggregate distributions to our stockholders and (b) our change in net assets (defined as total assets less indebtedness and before taking into account any income based fees or capital gains incentive fees accrued during the period) is less than 7.0% of our net assets (defined as total assets less indebtedness) at the beginning of such period. Any deferred income based fees and capital gains incentive fees are carried over for payment in subsequent calculation periods to the extent such payment is payable under the investment advisory and management agreement.

These calculations will be adjusted for any share issuances or repurchases.

See "Management Investment Advisory and Management Agreement."

- (8) "Interest payments on borrowed funds" represents our interest expenses estimated by annualizing our actual interest and credit facility expenses incurred for the six months ended June 30, 2017. During the six months ended June 30, 2017, our average outstanding borrowings were approximately \$4.6 billion and cash paid for interest expense was \$85 million. We had outstanding borrowings of approximately \$4.9 billion (with a carrying value of approximately \$4.8 billion) as of June 30, 2017. This item is based on the assumption that our borrowings and interest costs after an offering will remain similar to those prior to such offering. The amount of leverage that we may employ at any particular time will depend on, among other things, our investment adviser's and our board of directors' assessment of market and other factors at the time of any proposed borrowing. See "Risk Factors Risks Relating to Our Business We borrow money, which magnifies the potential for gain or loss on amounts invested and may increase the risk of investing with us."
- (9) Includes our overhead expenses, including payments under our administration agreement based on our allocable portion of overhead and other expenses incurred by Ares Operations in performing its obligations under the administration agreement, and income taxes. Such expenses are estimated by annualizing "Other expenses" for the six months ended June 30, 2017 (other than \$38 million of professional and other costs related to the American Capital Acquisition, which are included in "Other Expenses" but not annualized). The holders of shares of our common stock (and not the holders of our debt securities or preferred stock, if any) indirectly bear the cost associated with our annual expenses. See "Management Administration Agreement."
- (10) Our stockholders indirectly bear the expenses of underlying funds or other investment vehicles that would be investment companies under section 3(a) of the Investment Company Act but for the exceptions to that definition provided for in sections 3(c)(1) and 3(c)(7) of the Investment Company Act ("Acquired Funds") in which we invest. Such underlying funds or other investment vehicles are referred to in this prospectus as "Acquired Funds." This amount includes the

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estimated annual fees and operating expenses of Acquired Funds as of June 30, 2017. Certain of these Acquired Funds are subject to management fees, which generally range from 1% to 2.5% of total net assets, or incentive fees, which generally range between 15% and 25% of net profits. When applicable, fees and operating expenses estimates are based on historic fees and operating expenses for the Acquired Funds. For those Acquired Funds with little or no operating history, fees and operating expenses are estimates based on expected fees and operating expenses stated in the Acquired Funds' offering memorandum, private placement memorandum or other similar communication without giving effect to any performance. Future fees and operating expenses for these Acquired Funds may be substantially higher or lower because certain fees and operating expenses are based on the performance of the Acquired Funds, which may fluctuate over time. Also included with the amount is an estimate of the annual fees and operating expenses of the SDLP. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Portfolio and Investment Activity Senior Direct Lending Program" and Note 4 to our consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2016 and the three and six months ended June 30, 2017 for more information on the SDLP. The annual fees and operating expenses of the SDLP were estimated based on the funded portfolio of the SDLP as of June 30, 2017 and include interest payments on the senior notes and intermediate funding notes provided by Varagon and its clients, which represent 87% of such expenses.

- (11) "Total annual expenses" as a percentage of consolidated net assets attributable to common stock are higher than the total annual expenses percentage would be for a company that is not leveraged. We borrow money to leverage and increase our total assets. The SEC requires that the "Total annual expenses" percentage be calculated as a percentage of net assets (defined as total assets less indebtedness and before taking into account any income based fees or capital gains incentive fees accrued during the period), rather than the total assets, including assets that have been funded with borrowed monies.

**Example**

The following example demonstrates the projected dollar amount of total cumulative expenses over various periods with respect to a hypothetical investment in our common stock. In calculating the following expense amounts, we have assumed that we would have no additional leverage, that none of our assets are cash or cash equivalents and that our annual operating expenses would remain at the levels set forth in the table above. Income based fees and the capital gains incentive fees under the investment advisory and management agreement, which, assuming a 5% annual return, would either not be payable or have an insignificant impact on the expense amounts shown below, are not included in the example, except as specifically set forth below. Transaction expenses are not included in the following example. 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 common stock investment, assuming a 5% annual return (none of which is subject to the capital gains incentive fee)(1)	\$ 81	\$ 236	\$ 382	\$ 707
You would pay the following expenses on a \$1,000 common stock investment, assuming a 5% annual return resulting entirely from net realized capital gains (all of which is subject to the capital gains incentive fee)(2)	\$ 91	\$ 264	\$ 425	\$ 778

- (1) Assumes that we will not realize any capital gains computed net of all realized capital losses and unrealized capital depreciation.

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- (2) Assumes no unrealized capital depreciation and a 5% annual return resulting entirely from net realized capital gains and not otherwise deferrable under the terms of the investment advisory and management agreement and therefore subject to the capital gains incentive fee.

The foregoing table is to assist you in understanding the various costs and expenses that an investor in our common stock will bear directly or indirectly. 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%. If we were to achieve sufficient returns on our investments, including through the realization of capital gains, to trigger income based fees or capital gains incentive fees of a material amount, our expenses, and returns to our investors, would be higher. In addition, while the example assumes reinvestment of all dividends and distributions at net asset value, if our board of directors authorizes and we declare a cash dividend, participants in our dividend reinvestment plan who have not otherwise elected to receive cash 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 valuation date for the dividend. See "Dividend Reinvestment Plan" for additional information regarding our dividend reinvestment plan.

**This example and the expenses in the table above should not be considered a representation of our future expenses as actual expenses (including the cost of debt, if any, and other expenses) that we may incur in the future and such actual expenses may be greater or less than those shown.**

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**SELECTED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA OF ARES CAPITAL**

The following selected financial and other data as of and for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013 and 2012 are derived from our consolidated financial statements, which have been audited by KPMG LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm whose report thereon is included elsewhere in this prospectus. The selected financial and other data as of and for the six months ended June 30, 2017 and June 30, 2016 and other quarterly financial information is derived from our unaudited financial statements, but in the opinion of management, reflects all adjustments (consisting only of normal recurring adjustments) that are necessary to present fairly the results of such interim periods. Interim results as of and for the six months ended June 30, 2017 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the year ending December 31, 2017. The data should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and notes thereto and "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and "Senior Securities," which are included elsewhere in this prospectus or the accompanying prospectus supplement.

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**ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA**

**As of and For the Six Months Ended June 30, 2017 and June 30, 2016 and  
As of and For the Years Ended December 31, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013 and 2012  
(dollar amounts in millions, except per share data and as otherwise indicated)**

	As of and For the Six Months Ended June 30,		As of and For the Year Ended December 31,				
	2017 (unaudited)	2016 (unaudited)	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Total Investment Income	\$ 559	\$ 493	\$ 1,012	\$ 1,025	\$ 989	\$ 882	\$ 748
Total Expenses	332	266	497	499	533	437	388
Net Investment Income Before Income Taxes	227	227	515	526	456	445	360
Income Tax Expense, Including Excise Tax	9	9	21	18	18	14	11
Net Investment Income	218	218	494	508	438	431	349
Net Realized and Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Investments, Foreign Currencies, Extinguishment of Debt and Other Assets	78	71	(20)	(129)	153	58	159
Net Increase in Stockholders' Equity Resulting from Operations	\$ 296	\$ 289	\$ 474	\$ 379	\$ 591	\$ 489	\$ 508