ARES CAPITAL CORP

FORM N-2

(Securities Registration (close-end investment trust))

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Industry	Business Services
Sector	Services
Fiscal Year	12/31

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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 12, 2006

Registration No. 333-

U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM N-2

REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933
☐ **PRE-EFFECTIVE AMENDMENT NO. 3**
☐ **POST-EFFECTIVE AMENDMENT NO.**

ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

780 Third Avenue, 46th Floor
New York, New York 10017
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

Registrant's Telephone Number, including Area Code: **(212) 750-7300**

Kevin Frankel
c/o Ares Management LLC
1999 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1900
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(310) 201-4200
(Name and Address of Agent for Service)

Copies of information to:

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Approximate Date of Proposed Public Offering: From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

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

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

	Proposed Maximum	Proposed Maximum	Amount of

Title of Securities Being Registered	Amount Being Registered	Offering Price Per Unit	Aggregate Offering Price(1)	Registration Fee
Common Stock, $0.001 par value per share			$250,000,000	$26,750

(1) Estimated pursuant to Rule 457 solely for the purpose of determining the registration fee.

THE REGISTRANT HEREBY AMENDS THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT ON SUCH DATE OR DATES AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO DELAY ITS EFFECTIVE DATE UNTIL THE REGISTRANT SHALL FILE A FURTHER AMENDMENT WHICH SPECIFICALLY STATES THAT THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT SHALL THEREAFTER BECOME EFFECTIVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 8(a) OF THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933, AS AMENDED, OR UNTIL THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE ON SUCH DATE AS THE COMMISSION, ACTING PURSUANT TO SECTION 8(a), MAY DETERMINE.

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

Subject to Completion, dated May 12, 2006

PROSPECTUS

$250,000,000

Common Stock

Ares Capital Corporation is a specialty finance company that is a closed-end, non-diversified management investment company incorporated in Maryland that is regulated as a business development company under the Investment Company Act of 1940. We were founded in April 2004 and completed our initial public offering on October 8, 2004. Our investment objectives are to generate both current income and capital appreciation through debt and equity investments. We invest primarily in first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt, which in some cases may include an equity component, and, to a lesser extent, in equity investments, in private middle market companies.

We are managed by Ares Capital Management LLC, an affiliate of Ares Management LLC, an independent Los Angeles based firm that currently manages investment funds that have approximately $10.8 billion of committed capital. Ares Technical Administration LLC provides the administrative services necessary for us to operate.

Our common stock is quoted on The NASDAQ National Market under the symbol "ARCC." On May 10, 2006, the last reported sales price of our common stock on The NASDAQ National Market was $17.00 per share.

Investing in our common stock involves risks that are described in the "Risk Factors" section beginning on page 15 of the prospectus.

We may offer, from time to time, up to $250 million aggregate initial offering price of our common stock in one or more offerings. We will offer the shares of common stock at prices and on terms to be described in one or more supplements to this prospectus. The offering price per share of our common stock less any underwriting commissions or discounts will not be less than the net value per share of our common stock at the time we make the offering. This prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement concisely provide important information you should know before investing in our common stock. Please read the prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement before you invest and keep it for future reference. Our Internet address is *http://www.arescapitalcorporation.com.* We make available free of charge on our website our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the Securities and Exchange Commission. The SEC also maintains a website at *www.sec.gov* that contains such information.

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

This prospectus may not be used to consummate sales of shares of common stock unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

The date of this prospectus is , 2006.

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 SEC, using the "shelf" registration process. Under the shelf registration process, we may offer, from time to time, up to $250 million aggregate initial offering price of our common stock on the terms to be determined at the time of the offering. Shares of our common stock 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 shares of our common stock that we may offer. Each time we use this prospectus to offer shares of our common stock, 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 any 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.

PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

This summary highlights some of the information in this prospectus. It is not complete and may not contain all of the information that you may want to consider. You should read carefully the more detailed information set forth under "Risk Factors" and the other information included in this prospectus. Except where the context suggests otherwise, the terms "we," "us," "our," "the Company" and "Ares Capital" refer to Ares Capital Corporation and its subsidiaries; "Ares Capital Management" or "investment adviser" refers to Ares Capital Management LLC; "Ares Administration" refers to Ares Technical Administration LLC; and "Ares" refers to Ares Partners Management Company LLC and its affiliated companies, including Ares Management LLC.

THE COMPANY

Ares Capital is a specialty finance company that is a closed-end, non-diversified management investment company, regulated as a business development company, or a "BDC," under the Investment Company Act of 1940, or the "1940 Act." We were founded in April 2004, completed our initial public offering on October 8, 2004 and completed two additional equity offerings in March 2005 and October 2005. Ares Capital's investment objectives are to generate both current income and capital appreciation through debt and equity investments by primarily investing in U.S. middle market companies, where we believe the supply of primary capital is limited and the investment opportunities are most attractive.

We primarily invest in first and second lien senior loans and long-term mezzanine debt. First and second lien senior loans generally are senior debt instruments that rank ahead of subordinated debt of a given portfolio company. These loans also have the benefit of security interests on the assets of the portfolio company, which may rank ahead of or be junior to other security interests. Mezzanine debt is subordinated to senior loans and is generally unsecured. In some cases, we may also receive warrants or options in connection with our debt instruments. Our investments have generally ranged between $10 million and $50 million each, although the investment sizes may be more or less than the targeted range and are expected to grow with our capital availability. We also, to a lesser extent, make equity investments in private middle market companies. These investments have generally been less than $10 million each but may grow with our capital availability and are usually made in conjunction with loans we make to these companies. 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 this prospectus, we generally use the term "middle market" to refer to companies with annual EBITDA between $5 million and $50 million. EBITDA represents net income before net interest expense, income tax expense, depreciation and amortization.

The first and second lien senior loans generally have stated terms of three to ten years and the mezzanine debt investments generally have stated terms of up to ten years, but the expected average life of such first and second lien loans and mezzanine debt is generally between three and seven years. However, there is no limit on the maturity or duration of any security in our portfolio. The debt that we invest in typically is not rated by any rating agency, but we believe that if such investments were rated, they would be below investment grade (rated lower than "Baa3" by Moody's or lower than "BBB-" by Standard & Poor's). We may invest without limit in debt of any rating, including 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 Ares' current investment platform, resources and existing relationships with financial sponsors, financial institutions, hedge funds and other investment firms to provide us with attractive investments. In addition to deal flow, the Ares investment platform assists our investment adviser in analyzing, structuring and monitoring investments. Ares' senior principals have worked together for many years and have substantial experience in investing in senior loans, high yield bonds, mezzanine debt and

private equity. The Company has access to the Ares staff of approximately 54 investment professionals and to the 33 administrative professionals employed by Ares who provide assistance in accounting, legal, compliance and investor relations.

While our primary focus is to generate current income and capital appreciation through investments in first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt and, to a lesser extent, equity securities of private companies, we also may invest up to 30% of the portfolio in opportunistic investments. Such investments may include investments in high-yield bonds, debt and equity securities in collateralized debt obligation vehicles and distressed debt or equity securities of public companies. We expect that these public companies generally will have debt that is non-investment grade. As part of this 30% of the portfolio, we may also invest in debt of middle market companies located outside of the United States, which investments are not anticipated to be in excess of 10% of the portfolio at the time such investments are made.

About Ares

Ares is an independent firm with approximately $10.8 billion of total committed capital and over 100 employees as of March 31, 2006. Ares was founded in 1997 by a group of highly experienced investment professionals.

Ares specializes in originating and managing assets in both the leveraged finance and private equity markets. Ares' leveraged finance activities include the acquisition and management of senior loans, high yield bonds, mezzanine and special situation investments. Ares' private equity activities focus on providing flexible, junior capital to middle market companies. Ares has the ability to invest across a capital structure, from senior secured floating rate debt to common equity.

Ares is comprised of the following groups:

- **Capital Markets Group** . The Ares Capital Markets Group currently manages a variety of funds and investment vehicles that have approximately $6.8 billion of committed capital, focusing primarily on syndicated senior secured loans, high yield bonds, distressed debt, other liquid fixed income investments and other publicly traded debt securities.

- **Private Debt Group** . The Ares Private Debt Group manages the assets of Ares Capital. The Private Debt Group focuses primarily on non-syndicated first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt.

- **Private Equity Group** . The Ares Private Equity Group manages the Ares Corporate Opportunities Fund L.P. and the Ares Corporate Opportunities Fund II, L.P. (collectively referred to as "ACOF"), which together have approximately $2.8 billion of committed capital as of March 31, 2006. ACOF generally makes private equity investments in companies in amounts substantially larger than the private equity investments anticipated to be made by Ares Capital. The Private Equity Group generally focuses on control-oriented equity investments in under-capitalized companies or companies with capital structure issues.

Ares' senior principals have been working together as a group for many years and have an average of over 20 years of experience in leveraged finance, private equity, distressed debt, investment banking and capital markets. They are backed by a large team of highly-disciplined professionals. Ares' rigorous investment approach is based upon an intensive, independent financial analysis, with a focus on preservation of capital, diversification and active portfolio management. These fundamentals underlie Ares' investment strategy and have resulted in large pension funds, banks, insurance companies, endowments and high net worth individuals investing in Ares funds.

Ares Capital Management

Ares Capital Management, our investment adviser, is served by a dedicated origination and transaction development team of 14 investment professionals, including our President, Michael J. Arougheti, which team is augmented by Ares' additional investment professionals, primarily its 23 member Capital Markets Group. Ares Capital Management's investment committee has 5 members, including Mr. Arougheti and 4 founding members of Ares. In addition, Ares Capital Management leverages off of Ares' entire investment platform and benefits from the Ares investment professionals' significant capital markets, trading and research expertise developed through Ares industry analysts. Ares funds have made investments in over 1,000 companies in over 30 different industries and currently hold over 400 investments in over 30 different industries.

MARKET OPPORTUNITY

We believe the environment for investing in middle market companies is attractive for the following reasons:

- We believe that many senior lenders 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.
- We believe there is increased demand among private middle market companies for primary capital. Many middle-market firms have faced increased difficulty raising debt in the capital markets, due to a continuing preference for larger size high yield bond issuances.
- We believe there is a large pool of uninvested private equity capital for middle market companies. We expect private equity firms will seek to leverage their investments by combining capital with senior secured loans and mezzanine debt from other sources.

COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES

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

Existing investment platform

Ares currently manages approximately $10.8 billion of committed capital in the related asset classes of syndicated loans, high yield bonds, mezzanine debt and private equity. We believe Ares' current investment platform provides a competitive advantage in terms of access to origination and marketing activities and diligence for Ares Capital.

Seasoned management team

Ares senior professionals have an average of over 20 years experience in leveraged finance, including substantial experience in investing in leveraged loans, high yield bonds, mezzanine debt, distressed debt and private equity securities. As a result of Ares' extensive investment experience, Ares and its senior principals have developed a strong reputation in the capital markets. We believe that this experience affords Ares Capital a competitive advantage in identifying and investing in middle market companies with the potential to generate positive returns.

Experience and focus on middle market companies

Ares has historically focused on investments in middle market companies and we benefit from this experience. Our investment adviser uses Ares' extensive network of relationships with intermediaries focused on middle market companies, to attract well-positioned prospective portfolio

company investments. In particular, our investment adviser works closely with the Ares investment professionals, who oversee a portfolio of investments in over 400 companies, and provide access to an extensive network of relationships and special 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 investment approach that was developed over 14 years ago by several of its founders. Ares Capital Management's investment philosophy and portfolio construction involves an assessment of the overall macroeconomic environment, financial markets and company-specific research and analysis. Our investment approach emphasizes capital preservation, low volatility and minimization of downside risk.

Extensive industry focus

We concentrate our investing activities in industries with a history of predictable and dependable cash flows and in which the Ares investment professionals historically have had extensive investment experience. Since its inception in 1997, Ares investment professionals have invested in over 1,000 companies in over 30 different industries, and over this time have developed long-term relationships with management teams and management consultants within these industries. The experience of Ares' investment professionals in investing across these industries, throughout various stages of the economic cycle, provides our investment adviser with access to ongoing market insights and favorable investment opportunities.

Flexible transaction structuring

We are flexible in structuring investments, the types of securities in which we invest and the terms associated with such investments. The principals of Ares have extensive experience in a wide variety of securities for leveraged companies with a diverse set of terms and conditions. This approach and experience should enable our investment adviser to identify attractive investment opportunities throughout the economic cycle and across a company's capital structure so that we can make investments consistent with our stated objectives.

OPERATING AND REGULATORY STRUCTURE

Our investment activities are managed by Ares Capital Management and supervised by our board of directors, a majority of whom are independent of Ares and its affiliates. Ares Capital Management is an investment adviser that is registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, or the "Advisers Act." Under our investment advisory and management agreement, we have agreed to pay Ares Capital Management an annual base management fee based on our total assets, as defined under the 1940 Act (other than cash and cash equivalents but including assets purchased with borrowed funds), and an incentive fee based on our performance. See "Management—Investment Advisory and Management Agreement."

As a BDC, we are required to comply with certain regulatory requirements. While we are permitted to finance investments using debt, our ability to use debt is limited in certain significant respects. See "Regulation." We have elected to be treated for federal income tax purposes as a regulated investment company, or a "RIC," under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the "Code." See "Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations."

LIQUIDITY

We are party to a Senior Secured Revolving Credit Agreement that provides for up to $250 million of borrowings, which expires on December 28, 2010. In addition, our wholly owned

subsidiary, Ares Capital CP Funding LLC, is party to a separate credit facility (together with the Senior Secured Revolving Credit Agreement, the "Facilities") that provides for up to $350 million of borrowings, which expires on November 1, 2006, unless extended prior to such date with the consent of the lenders.

RISK FACTORS

Investing in Ares Capital involves risks. The following is a summary of certain risks that you should carefully consider before investing in shares of our common stock. In addition, see "Risk Factors" beginning on page 15 for a more detailed discussion of the factors you should carefully consider before deciding to invest in our common stock.

Risks Relating to Our Business

- A failure on our part to maintain our status as a BDC would significantly reduce our operating flexibility.
- The Company may not replicate Ares' historical success.
- We are dependent upon Ares Capital Management's key personnel for our future success and upon their access to Ares investment professionals.
- We are a new company with a limited operating history.
- Our investment adviser and the members of its investment committee have limited experience managing a BDC.
- Our financial condition and results of operation will depend on our ability to manage future growth effectively.
- Our ability to grow will depend on our ability to raise capital.
- We operate in a highly competitive market for investment opportunities.
- We will be subject to corporate-level income tax if we are unable to qualify as a RIC.
- We may have difficulty paying our required distributions if we recognize income before or without receiving cash representing such income.
- Regulations governing our operation as a BDC affect our ability to, and the way in which we, raise additional capital.
- If our primary investments are deemed not to be qualifying assets we could lose our status as a BDC or be precluded from investing according to our current business plan.
- We borrow money, which magnifies the potential for gain or loss on amounts invested and may increase the risk of investing with us.
- We will be exposed to risks associated with changes in interest rates.
- Many of our portfolio investments are not publicly traded and, as a result, there will be uncertainty as to the value of our portfolio investments.
- The lack of liquidity in our investments may adversely affect our business.
- We may experience fluctuations in our quarterly results.
- There are significant potential conflicts of interest that could impact our investment returns.

- Our investment adviser's liability is limited under the investment management agreement, and we will indemnify our investment adviser against certain liabilities, which may lead our investment adviser to act in a riskier manner on our behalf than it would when acting for its own account.
- We may be obligated to pay our manager incentive compensation even if we incur a loss.
- Changes in laws or regulations governing our operations, or changes in the interpretation thereof, and any failure by us to comply with laws or regulations governing our operations may adversely affect our business.
- Our ability to enter into transactions with our affiliates will be restricted.

Risks Relating To Our Investments

- Our portfolio is concentrated in a limited number of portfolio companies, which subjects us to a risk of significant loss if any of these companies defaults on its obligations.
- Our investments may be risky, and you could lose all or part of your investment.
- Economic recessions or downturns could impair our portfolio companies and harm our operating results.
- There may be circumstances where our debt investments could be subordinated to claims of other creditors or we could be subject to lender liability claims.
- An investment strategy focused primarily on privately-held companies presents certain challenges, including the lack of available information about these companies and a greater vulnerability to economic downturns.
- Our portfolio companies may incur debt or issue equity securities that rank equally with, or senior to, our investments in such companies.
- Investments in equity securities involve a substantial degree of risk.
- Our incentive fee may induce Ares Capital Management to make certain investments, including speculative investments.
- Our investments in foreign debt may involve significant risks in addition to the risks inherent in U.S. investments. We may expose ourselves to risks if we engage in hedging transactions.
- We will initially invest a portion of the net proceeds of offerings pursuant to this prospectus primarily in high-quality short-term investments, which will generate lower rates of return than those expected from the interest generated on first and second lien loans and mezzanine debt.
- When we are a debt or minority equity investor in a portfolio company, we may not be in a position to control the entity, and management of the company may make decisions that could decrease the value of our portfolio holdings.
- Our board of directors may change our operating policies and strategies without prior notice or stockholder approval, the effects of which may be adverse.

Risks Relating To Offerings

- There is a risk that you may not receive dividends or that our dividends may not grow over time.

- Provisions of the Maryland General Corporation Law and of our charter and bylaws could deter takeover attempts and have an adverse impact on the price of our common stock.
- Investing in our shares may involve an above average degree of risk.
- The market price of our common stock may fluctuate significantly.
- We may allocate the net proceeds from offerings in ways with which you may not agree.
- Our shares may trade at discounts from net asset value.
- Investors in offerings will incur immediate dilution upon the closing of this offering.
- Sales of substantial amounts of our common stock in the public market may have an adverse effect on the market price of our common stock.

OUR CORPORATE INFORMATION

Our administrative offices are located at 1999 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1900, Los Angeles, California, 90067, telephone number (310) 201-4200, and our executive offices are located at 780 Third Avenue, 46th Floor, New York, New York 10017, telephone number (212) 750-7300.

OFFERINGS

We may offer, from time to time, up to $250 million of our common stock, on terms to be determined at the time of the offering. We will offer our common stock at prices and on terms to be set forth in one or more supplements to this prospectus; *provided* that the offering price per share, less any underwriting commissions or discounts, will not be less than the net asset value per share of our common stock at the time of the offering.

We may offer our common stock directly to one or more purchasers, through agents that we designate from time to time, or to or through underwriters or dealers. The prospectus supplement relating to the offering will identify any agents or underwriters involved in the sale of our common stock, 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 common stock 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 includes investing in portfolio companies in accordance with our investment objectives and strategies and repaying indebtedness, if any, incurred under our credit facilities. The 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 intend to distribute quarterly dividends to our stockholders out of assets legally available for distribution. Our quarterly dividends, if any, will be determined by our board of directors. For more information, see "Dividends."
Taxation	We have elected to be treated for federal income tax purposes as a RIC. As a RIC, we generally will not pay corporate-level federal income taxes on any ordinary income or capital gains that we distribute to our stockholders as dividends. To maintain our RIC status, we must meet specified source-of-income and asset diversification requirements and distribute annually an amount equal to at least 90% of our ordinary income and realized net short-term capital gains in excess of realized net long-term capital losses, if any, reduced by deductible expenses, out of assets legally available for distribution. See "Risk Factors—We will be subject to corporate level income tax if we are unable to qualify as a RIC" 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 dividend, then stockholders' cash dividends will be automatically reinvested in additional shares of our common stock, unless they specifically "opt out" of the dividend reinvestment plan so as to receive cash dividends. Stockholders who receive distributions in the form of stock will be subject to the same federal, state and local tax consequences as stockholders who elect to receive their distributions in cash. See "Dividend Reinvestment Plan."
NASDAQ National 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 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 common 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 defined in the 1940 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' assessment of market and other factors at the time of any proposed borrowing.
Management arrangements	Ares Capital Management serves as our investment adviser. Ares Administration serves as our administrator. For a description of Ares Capital Management, Ares Administration, 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 on our website at *www.arescapitalcorp.com.* The SEC also maintains a website at *www.sec.gov* that contains such information.

FEES AND EXPENSES

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. We caution you that some of the percentages indicated in the table below are estimates and may vary. Except where the context suggests otherwise, whenever this prospectus contains a reference to fees or expenses paid by "you," "us" or "Ares Capital," or that "we" will pay fees or expenses, stockholders will indirectly bear such fees or expenses as investors in Ares Capital.

Stockholder transaction expenses (as a percentage of offering price):		
Sales load paid by us	—	(1)
Offering expenses borne by us	—	(2)
Dividend reinvestment plan expenses	None	(3)
Total stockholder transaction expenses paid by us	—	(4)
Estimated annual expenses (as a percentage of consolidated net assets attributable to common stock)(5):		
Management fees	2.04%	(6)
Incentive fees payable under investment advisory and management agreement (20% of realized capital gains and 20% of pre-incentive fee net investment income, subject to certain limitations)	0.00%	(7)
Interest payments on borrowed funds	1.23%	(8)
Other expenses	0.78%	(9)
Total annual expenses (estimated)	4.05%	(10)

(1) In the event that the shares of common stock to which this prospectus relates are sold to or through underwriters, a corresponding prospectus supplement will disclose the applicable sales load.

(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."

(4) The related prospectus supplement will disclose the offering price and the total stockholder transaction expenses as a percentage of the offering price.

(5) "Consolidated net assets attributable to common stock" equals net asset value at March 31, 2006.

(6) Our management fee is 1.5% of our total assets other than cash and cash equivalents (which includes assets purchased with borrowed amounts). For the purposes of this table, we have assumed that we maintain no cash or cash equivalents. The 2.04% reflected on the table is calculated on our net assets (rather than our total assets). See "Management—Investment Advisory and Management Agreement."

(7) We expect to invest all of the net proceeds from shares of common stock registered under the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part within two years or less of the date of the initial registration and may have capital gains and interest income that could result in the payment of an incentive fee to our investment adviser in the first year after completion of offerings pursuant to this prospectus. However, the incentive fee payable to our investment adviser is based on our performance and will not be paid unless we achieve certain goals. As we cannot predict whether we will meet the necessary performance targets, we have assumed a base incentive fee of 0% in this chart. Since our inception, the average quarterly incentive fee payable to our investment adviser has been approximately 0.34% of our weighted net assets (1.36% on an annualized basis). For more detailed information about incentive fees previously incurred by us, please see Note 3 to our

consolidated financial statements as of December 31, 2005 and Note 3 to our consolidated financial statements as of March 31, 2006.

The incentive fee consists of two parts:

The first, payable quarterly in arrears, equals 20% of our pre-incentive fee net investment income (including interest that is accrued but not yet received in cash), subject to a 2.00% quarterly (8% 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 incentive fee until our net investment income equals the hurdle rate of 2.00% 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 2.50%. The effect of this provision is that, if pre-incentive fee net investment income exceeds 2.50% 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.

The second, payable annually in arrears for each calendar year ending on or after December 31, 2004, equals 20% of our net realized capital gains, if any, computed net of all realized capital losses and unrealized capital depreciation. We intended to use the cumulative method to calculate the capital gains portion of the incentive fee. However, the SEC's Fort Worth District Office has raised issues regarding the clarity of our investment advisory and management agreement. In response, our investment adviser has agreed that in calculating payments of the capital gains portion of the incentive fee we will use the method (cumulative or period-to-period) that results in the lowest incentive fee payment to the investment adviser until our next stockholder meeting scheduled for May 30, 2006, where we are seeking the vote of our stockholders to amend and restate our investment advisory and management agreement to make our method of using the cumulative calculation clear. See "Investment Advisory and Management Agreement—Management Fee."

We will defer cash payment of any incentive fee 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) is less than 8.0% of our net assets at the beginning of such period. 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 an estimate of our annualized interest expenses based on actual interest and credit facility expense incurred and amortization of debt issuance cost for the quarter ended March 31, 2006. During the quarter ended March 31, 2006, the average borrowings were $82.9 million and cash paid for interest expense was $308,038. We had outstanding borrowings of $185.2 million at March 31, 2006. The estimate is based on our 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 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—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 the administration agreement based on our allocable portion of overhead and other expenses incurred by Ares Administration in performing its obligations under the administration agreement. Such expenses are based on annualized other expenses for the quarter ended March 31, 2006. See "Management—Administration Agreement." 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.

(10) "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 our net assets and increase our total assets. The SEC requires that the "Total annual expenses" percentage be calculated as a percentage of net assets, rather than the total assets, including assets that have been funded with borrowed monies. If the "Total annual expenses" percentage were calculated instead as a percentage of consolidated total assets, our "Total annual expenses" would be 2.97% of consolidated total assets.

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 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. 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 investment, assuming a 5% annual return(1)	$ 41.50	$ 125.56	$ 211.06	$ 431.24

(1) The above illustration assumes that we will not realize any capital gains computed net of all realized capital losses and unrealized capital depreciation. The expenses you would pay, based on a $1,000 investment and assuming a 5% annual return resulting entirely from net realized capital gains (and therefore subject to the capital gain incentive fee), and otherwise making the same assumptions in the example above, would be: 1 year, $51.50; 3 years, $154.88; 5 years, $258.73; and 10 years, $520.16. However, cash payment of the capital incentive fee would be deferred if during the most recent four full calendar quarter period ending on or prior to the date the payment set forth in the example 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) was less than 8.0% of our net assets at the beginning of such period (as adjusted for any share issuances or repurchases).

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%. The incentive fee 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 above, is not included in the example. If we achieve sufficient returns on our investments, including through the realization of capital gains, to trigger an incentive fee of a material amount, our expenses, and returns to our investors, would be higher. In addition, while the example assumes reinvestment of all dividends and distributions at net asset value, 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, and actual expenses (including the cost of debt, if any, and other expenses) may be greater or less than those shown.

SELECTED FINANCIAL AND OTHER DATA

The following selected financial and other data for the period from June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004 and the year ended December 31, 2005, are derived from our consolidated financial statements that have been audited by KPMG LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm whose report thereon is included within this registration statement. Quarterly financial information is derived from unaudited financial data, 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 at and for the three months ended March 31, 2006, are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the year ending December 31, 2006. 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," which are included elsewhere in this registration statement.

ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARY
SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA
Three Months Ended March 31, 2006
Year Ended December 31, 2005 and
Period June 23, 2004 (inception) Through December 31, 2004

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2006	Year Ended December 31, 2005	For the Period June 23, 2004 (inception) Through December 31, 2004
Total Investment Income	$ 20,191,305	$ 41,850,477	$ 4,380,848
Net Realized and Unrealized Gain on Investments	2,151,498	14,727,276	475,393
Total Expenses	(8,499,770)	(14,726,677)	(1,665,753)
Net Increase in Stockholders' Equity Resulting from Operations	$ 13,843,033	$ 41,851,076	$ 3,190,488
Per Share Data:			
Net Increase in Stockholder's Equity Resulting from Operations:			
Basic:	$ 0.36	$ 1.78	$ 0.29
Diluted:	$ 0.36	$ 1.78	$ 0.29
Cash Dividend Declared:	$ 0.36	$ 1.30	$ 0.30
Total Assets	$ 778,620,556	$ 613,645,144	$ 220,455,614
Total Debt	$ 185,200,000	$ 18,000,000	$ 55,500,000
Total Stockholders' Equity	$ 571,375,338	$ 569,612,199	$ 159,708,305
Other Data:			
Number of Portfolio Companies at Period End	48	38	20
Principal Amount of Investments Purchased(1)	$ 195,411,000	$ 504,299,000	$ 234,102,000
Principal Amount of Investments Sold and Repayments(2)	$ 36,745,000	$ 108,415,000	$ 52,272,000
Total Return Based on Market Value(3)	9.15%	(10.60)%	31.53%
Total Return Based on Net Asset Value(4)	2.42%	12.04%	(1.80)%
Weighted Average Yield of Income Producing Equity Securities and Debt(5):	11.47%	11.25%	12.36%

(1) The information presented for the period June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004 includes $140.8 million of the assets purchased from Royal Bank of Canada and excludes $9.7 million of publicly traded fixed income securities.

(2) The information presented for the period June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004 excludes $9.7 million of publicly traded fixed income securities.

(3) Total return based on market value for the three months ended March 31, 2006 equals the increase of the ending market value at March 31, 2006 or $17.18 per share over the ending market value at December 31, 2005 of $16.07, plus the declared dividend of $0.36 per share for holders of record on March 24, 2006, divided by the market value at December 31, 2005. Total return based on market value for the year ended December 31, 2005 equals the decrease of the ending market value at December 31, 2005 of $16.07 per share over the ending market value at December 31, 2004 of $19.43 per share plus the declared dividends of $1.30 per share for the year ended December 31, 2005. Total return based on market value for the period June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004 equals the increase of the ending market value at December 31, 2004 of $19.43 per share over the offering price of $15.00 per share plus the declared dividend of $0.30 per share (includes return of capital of $0.01 per share) for holders of record on December 27, 2004, divided by the offering price. Total return based on market value is not annualized.

(4) Total return based on net asset value for the three months ended March 31, 2006 equals the change in net asset value during the period plus the declared dividend of $0.36 per share for holders of record on March 24, 2006, divided by the beginning net asset value during the period. Total return based on net asset value for the year ended December 31, 2005 equals the change in net asset value during the period (adjusted for share issuances) plus the declared dividends of $1.30 per share for the year ended December 31, 2005, divided by the beginning net asset value. Total return based on net asset value for the period June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004 equals the change in net asset value during the period plus the declared dividend of $0.30 per share (includes return of capital of $0.01 per share) for holders of record on December 27, 2004, divided by the beginning net asset value. Total return based on net asset value is not annualized.

(5) Weighted average yield on income producing equity securities and debt is computed as (a) the annual stated interest rate or yield earned plus the net annual amortization of original issue discount and market discount on accruing debt divided by (b) total income producing equity securities and debt at fair value.

SELECTED QUARTERLY DATA (Unaudited)

	2006	2005				2004
	Q1	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1	Q4(1)
Total Investment Income	$ 20,191,305	$ 14,890,281	$ 11,607,989	$ 9,601,615	$ 5,750,592	$ 4,380,848
Net investment income before net realized and unrealized gain on investments and incentive compensation	$ 14,614,419	$ 11,071,081	$ 8,887,631	$ 7,567,053	$ 3,800,113	$ 3,009,749
Incentive compensation	$ 2,922,884	$ (510,478)	$ 2,643,353	$ 1,798,919	$ 270,284	$ 95,471
Net investment income before net realized and unrealized gain on investments	$ 11,691,535	$ 11,581,559	$ 6,244,278	$ 5,768,134	$ 3,529,829	$ 2,914,278
Net realized and unrealized gain on investments	$ 2,151,498	$ 4,281,465	$ 3,637,612	$ 1,834,122	$ 4,974,077	$ 475,393
Net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations	$ 13,843,033	$ 15,863,024	$ 9,881,890	$ 7,602,256	$ 8,503,906	$ 3,389,671
Basic and diluted earnings per common share	$ 0.36	$ 0.45	$ 0.42	$ 0.33	$ 0.69	$ 0.34
Net asset value per share as of the end of the quarter	$ 15.03	$ 15.03	$ 15.08	$ 14.97	$ 14.96	$ 14.43

(1) The Company was initially funded on June 23, 2004 (inception) but had no significant operations until the fourth quarter of 2004. The sole activity for the second and third quarters of 2004 was the incurrence of $199,183 in organizational expenses.

RISK FACTORS

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

RISKS RELATING TO OUR BUSINESS

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

If we do not continue to qualify as a BDC, we might be regulated as a closed-end investment company under the 1940 Act, which would significantly decrease our operating flexibility.

The Company may not replicate Ares' historical success.

Our primary focus in making investments differs from those of other private funds that are or have been managed by Ares' investment professionals. Further, investors in Ares Capital are not acquiring an interest in other Ares funds. While Ares Capital may consider potential co-investment participation in portfolio investments with other Ares funds (other than ACOF), no investment opportunities are currently under consideration and any such investment activity could be subject to, among other things, regulatory and independent board member approvals, the receipt of which, if sought, cannot be assured. Accordingly, we cannot assure you that Ares Capital will replicate Ares' historical success, and we caution you that our investment returns could be substantially lower than the returns achieved by those private funds.

We are dependent upon Ares Capital Management's key personnel for our future success and upon their access to Ares investment professionals.

We depend on the diligence, skill and network of business contacts of the members of Ares Capital Management's investment committee. We also depend, to a significant extent, on Ares Capital Management's access to the investment professionals of Ares and the information and deal flow generated by Ares' investment professionals in the course of their investment and portfolio management activities. Our future success will depend on the continued service of Ares Capital Management's investment committee. The departure of any of the members of Ares Capital Management's investment committee, or of a significant number of the investment professionals or partners of Ares, could have a material adverse effect on our ability to achieve our investment objectives. In addition, we cannot assure you that Ares Capital Management will remain our investment adviser or that we will continue to have access to Ares' investment professionals or its information and deal flow.

We are a new company with a limited operating history.

We were incorporated in April 2004, completed our initial public offering in October 2004 and have a limited operating history. We are subject to all of the business risks and uncertainties associated with any new business, including the risk that we will not achieve our investment objectives and that the value of your investment could decline substantially.

Our investment adviser and the members of its investment committee have limited experience managing a BDC.

The 1940 Act imposes numerous constraints on the operations of business development companies. For example, business development companies are required to invest at least 70% of their total assets primarily in securities of private or thinly traded U.S. public companies, cash, cash equivalents, U.S. government securities and other high quality debt investments that mature in one year or less. Our investment adviser and the majority of the members of our senior management only have limited experience managing or providing management consultant services to an operating company, such as may be required of a BDC. Our investment adviser's, and the members of its investment committee's, lack of experience in managing a portfolio of assets under such constraints may hinder their ability to take advantage of attractive investment opportunities and, as a result, achieve our investment objectives.

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

Our ability to achieve our investment objectives depends on our ability to acquire suitable investments and monitor and administer those investments, which depends, in turn, on Ares Capital Management's ability to identify, invest in and monitor companies that meet our investment criteria.

Accomplishing this result on a cost-effective basis is largely a function of Ares Capital Management's structuring of the investment process and its ability to provide competent, attentive and efficient services to us. Our executive officers and the members of Ares Capital Management have substantial responsibilities in connection with their roles at Ares and with the other Ares funds as well as responsibilities under the investment advisory and management agreement. They may also be called upon to provide managerial assistance to our portfolio companies on behalf of our administrator. These demands on their time, which will increase as the number of investments grow, may distract them or slow the rate of investment. In order to grow, Ares Capital Management will need to hire, train, supervise and manage new employees. However, we cannot assure you that any such employees will be retained. Any failure to manage our future growth effectively could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Our ability to grow will depend on our ability to raise capital.

We will need to periodically access the capital markets to raise cash to fund new investments. Unfavorable economic conditions could increase our funding costs, limit our access to the capital markets or result in a decision by lenders not to extend credit to us. An inability to successfully access the capital markets could limit our ability to grow our business and fully execute our business strategy and could decrease our earnings, if any. With certain limited exceptions, we are only allowed to borrow amounts such that our asset coverage, as defined in the 1940 Act, equals at least 200% after such borrowing. The amount of leverage that we employ will depend on our investment adviser's and our board of directors' assessment of market and other factors at the time of any proposed borrowing. We cannot assure you that we will be able to maintain our current Facilities or obtain other lines of credit at all or on terms acceptable to us.

We operate in a highly competitive market for investment opportunities.

A number of entities compete with us to make the types of investments that we make in middle market companies. We compete with other business development companies, public and private funds, commercial and investment banks, commercial financing companies, insurance companies, high yield investors, hedge funds, and, to the extent they provide an alternative form of financing, private equity funds. Many of our competitors are substantially larger and have considerably greater financial,

technical and marketing resources than we do. Some competitors may have a lower cost of funds and access to funding sources that are not available to us. In addition, some of our competitors may have higher risk tolerances or different risk assessments, which could allow them to consider a wider variety of investments and establish more relationships than us. Furthermore, many of our competitors are not subject to the regulatory restrictions that the 1940 Act imposes on us as a BDC. We cannot assure you that the competitive pressures we face will not have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Also, as a result of this competition, we may not be able to take advantage of attractive investment opportunities from time to time, and we cannot assure you that we will be able to identify and make investments that meet our investment objectives.

We do not seek to compete primarily based on the interest rates we offer and we believe that some of our competitors may make loans with interest rates that will be comparable to or lower than the rates we offer.

We may lose investment opportunities if we do not match our competitors' pricing, terms and structure. If we match our competitors' pricing, terms and structure, we may experience decreased net interest income and increased risk of credit loss. As a result of operating in such a competitive environment, we may make investments that are on better terms to our portfolio companies than what we may have originally anticipated, which may impact our return on these investments.

We will be subject to corporate-level income tax if we are unable to qualify as a RIC.

To qualify as a RIC under the Code, we must meet certain income source, asset diversification and annual distribution requirements.

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

To qualify as a RIC, we must also meet certain asset diversification requirements at the end of each calendar quarter. Failure to meet these tests may result in our having to (i) dispose of certain investments quickly or (ii) raise additional capital to prevent the loss of RIC status. If we fail to qualify as a RIC for any reason and become or remain subject to corporate income tax, the resulting corporate taxes could substantially reduce our net assets, the amount of income available for distribution and the amount of our distributions. Such a failure would have a material adverse effect on us and our stockholders.

We may have difficulty paying our required distributions if we recognize income before or without receiving cash representing such income.

For federal income tax purposes, we include in income certain amounts that we have not yet received in cash, such as original issue discount, which may arise if we receive warrants in connection with the making of a loan or possibly in other circumstances, or contracted payment-in-kind interest, which represents contractual interest added to the loan balance and due at the end of the loan term. Such original issue discount or increases in loan balances are included in income before we receive any corresponding cash payments. We also may be required to include in income certain other amounts that we will not receive in cash, including, for example, non-cash income from pay-in-kind securities and deferred payment securities.

Since in certain cases we may recognize income before or without receiving cash representing such income, we may have difficulty meeting the tax requirement to distribute an amount equal to at least 90% of our ordinary income and realized net short-term capital gains in excess of realized net long-term capital losses, if any, reduced by deductible expenses, to maintain our status as a RIC. Accordingly, we may have to sell some of our investments at times we would not consider advantageous, raise additional debt or equity capital or reduce new investment originations to meet these distribution requirements. If we are not able to obtain cash from other sources, we may fail to qualify as a RIC and thus be subject to corporate-level income tax. See "Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations—Taxation as a RIC."

If a portfolio company defaults on a loan that is structured to provide accrued interest, it is possible that accrued interest previously used in the calculation of the incentive fee will become uncollectible. The investment adviser is not under any obligation to reimburse us for any part of the incentive fee it received that was based on accrued income that we never receive as a result of a default by an entity on the obligation that resulted in the accrual of such income.

Regulations governing our operation as a BDC affect our ability to, and the way in which we, raise additional capital.

We may issue debt securities or preferred stock, which we refer to collectively as "senior securities," and borrow money from banks or other financial institutions up to the maximum amount permitted by the 1940 Act. Under the provisions of the 1940 Act, we will be permitted, as a BDC, to incur indebtedness or issue senior securities only in amounts such that our asset coverage, as defined in the 1940 Act, equals at least 200% after such incurrence or issuance. If the value of our assets declines, we may be unable to satisfy this test, which would prohibit us from paying dividends and could prevent us from maintaining our status as a RIC. If we cannot satisfy this test, we may be required to sell a portion of our investments and, depending on the nature of our leverage, repay a portion of our indebtedness at a time when such sales may be disadvantageous. As of March 31, 2006, our asset coverage for senior securities was 409%.

We are not generally able to issue and sell our common stock at a price below net asset value per share. We may, however, sell our common stock, or warrants, options or rights to acquire our common stock, at a price below the current net asset value of the common stock if our board of directors determines that such sale is in our best interests and the best interests of our stockholders, and our stockholders approve such sale. In any such case, the price at which our securities are to be issued and sold may not be less than a price which, in the determination of our board of directors, closely approximates the market value of such securities (less any commission or discount). If our common stock trades at a discount to net asset value, this restriction could adversely affect our ability to raise capital.

In addition, we may seek to securitize our loans to generate cash for funding new investments. To securitize loans, we may create a wholly owned subsidiary and contribute a pool of loans to the subsidiary. This could include the sale of interests in the subsidiary on a non-recourse basis to purchasers who we would expect to be willing to accept a lower interest rate to invest in investment grade loan pools, and we would retain a portion of the equity in the securitized pool of loans. An inability to successfully securitize our loan portfolio could limit our ability to grow our business, fully execute our business strategy and decrease our earnings, if any. The securitization market is subject to changing market conditions and we may not be able to access this market when we would otherwise deem appropriate. Moreover, the successful securitization of our loan portfolio might expose us to losses as the residual loans in which we do not sell interests will tend to be those that are riskier and more apt to generate losses. The 1940 Act may also impose restrictions on the structure of any securitization.

If our primary investments are deemed not to be qualifying assets, we could lose our status as a BDC or be precluded from investing according to our current business plan.

If we are to maintain our status as a BDC, we must not acquire any assets other than "qualifying assets" unless, at the time of and after giving effect to such acquisition, at least 70% of our total assets are qualifying assets. If we acquire senior loans, mezzanine investments or equity securities from an issuer that has outstanding marginable securities at the time we make an investment, these acquired assets may not be treated as qualifying assets. See "Regulation—Qualifying Assets." This results from the definition of "eligible portfolio company" under the 1940 Act, which in part looks to whether a company has outstanding marginable securities.

Amendments promulgated in 1998 by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to Regulation T under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"), expanded the definition of marginable security to include any non-equity security. These amendments have raised questions as to whether a private company that has outstanding debt would qualify as an eligible portfolio company.

We believe that the senior loans and mezzanine investments that we acquire should constitute qualifying assets because the privately held issuers will not, at the time of our investment, have outstanding marginable securities for the reasons set forth in this paragraph. First, we make a large portion of our investments in companies that, to the extent they have any outstanding debt, have issued such debt on terms and in circumstances such that such debt should not, under existing legal precedent, be "securities" under the Exchange Act and therefore should not be deemed marginable securities under Regulation T. Second, we believe that, should a different position be taken such that those investments may be securities, they should still not be marginable securities. In particular, debt that does not trade in a public secondary market or is not rated investment grade is generally not a margin eligible security under the rules established by the self-regulatory organizations, including the New York Stock Exchange and National Association of Securities Dealers, that govern the terms on which broker-dealers may extend margin credit. Unless the questions raised by the amendments to Regulation T have been addressed by legislative, administrative or judicial action that contradicts our interpretation, we intend to treat as qualifying assets only those senior loans and mezzanine investments that, at the time of our investment, are issued by an issuer that does not have outstanding a class of margin eligible securities. Likewise, we will treat equity securities issued by a portfolio company as qualifying assets only if such securities are issued by a company that has no margin eligible securities outstanding at the time we purchase such securities.

If there were a court ruling or regulatory decision that conflicts with our interpretations, we could lose our status as a BDC or be precluded from investing in the manner described in this prospectus, either of which would have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. See "—A failure on our part to maintain our status as a BDC would significantly reduce our operating flexibility." Such a ruling or decision also may require that we dispose of investments that we made based on our interpretation of Regulation T. Such dispositions could have a material adverse effect on us and our stockholders. We may need to dispose of such investments quickly, which would make it difficult to dispose of such investments on favorable terms. In addition, because these types of investments will generally be illiquid, we may have difficulty in finding a buyer and, even if we do find a buyer, we may have to sell the investments at a substantial loss. See "Changes in laws or regulations governing our operations, or changes in the interpretation thereof, and any failure by us to comply with laws or regulations governing our operations may adversely affect our business."

On November 1, 2004, the SEC proposed for comment two new rules under the 1940 Act that are designed to realign the definition of eligible portfolio company set forth under the 1940 Act, and the investment activities of BDCs, with their original purpose by (1) defining eligible portfolio company

with reference to whether an issuer has any class of securities listed on a national securities exchange or on an automated interdealer quotation system of a national securities association ("NASDAQ") and (2) permitting BDCs to make certain additional ("follow-on") investments in those issuers even after they list their securities on a national securities exchange or on NASDAQ. The proposed rules are intended to expand the definition of eligible portfolio company in a manner that would promote the flow of capital to small, developing and financially troubled companies. We cannot assure you that these rules, or related rules arising out of the comment process, will be approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Until the SEC or its staff has issued final rules with respect to the issue discussed above, we will continue to monitor this issue closely, and may be required to adjust our investment focus to comply with and/or take advantage of any future administrative position, judicial decision or legislative action.

We borrow money, which magnifies the potential for gain or loss on amounts invested and may increase the risk of investing with us.

As of March 31, 2006, we had $185.2 million of outstanding borrowings under our Facilities. In order for us to cover our annual interest payments on indebtedness, we must achieve annual returns on our March 31, 2006 total assets of at least 0.69%. The weighted average interest rate charged on our borrowings as of March 31, 2006 was 5.6566%. We intend to continue borrowing under the Facilities in the future and we may increase the size of the Facilities or otherwise issue debt securities or other evidences of indebtedness. Our ability to service our debt depends largely on our financial performance and will be subject to prevailing economic conditions and competitive pressures. The amount of leverage that we employ at any particular time will depend on our investment adviser's and our board of directors' assessment of market and other factors at the time of any proposed borrowing.

Our Facilities impose financial and operating covenants that restrict our business activities, including limitations that could hinder our ability to finance additional loans and investments or to make the distributions required to maintain our status as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code. A failure to renew our Facilities, or to add new or replacement debt facilities could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Borrowings, also known as leverage, magnify the potential for gain or loss on amounts invested and, therefore, increase the risks associated with investing in our securities. We currently borrow under our Facilities and in the future may borrow from or issue senior debt securities to banks, insurance companies, and other lenders. Lenders of senior securities have fixed dollar claims on our consolidated assets that are superior to the claims of our common stockholders. If the value of our consolidated assets increases, then leveraging would cause the net asset value attributable to our common stock to increase more sharply than it would have had we not leveraged. Conversely, if the value of our consolidated assets decreases, leveraging would cause net asset value to decline more sharply than it otherwise would have had we not leveraged. Similarly, any increase in our consolidated income in excess of consolidated interest payable on the borrowed funds would cause our net income to increase more than it would without the leverage, while any decrease in our consolidated income would cause net income to decline more sharply than it would have had we not borrowed. Such a decline could negatively affect our ability to make common stock dividend payments. There is no assurance that a leveraging strategy will be successful.

The following table illustrates the effect on return to a holder of our common stock of the leverage created by our use of borrowing at the interest rate of 5.6566% and assumes (i) our total

value of net assets as of March 31, 2006; (ii) $185.2 million debt outstanding as of March 31, 2006 and (iii) hypothetical annual returns on our portfolio of minus 15 to plus 15 percent.

Assumed Return on Portfolio (Net of Expenses)(1)	-15.0%	-10.0%	-5.0%	—	5.0%	10.0%	15.0%
Corresponding Return to Common Stockholders(2)	-22.3%	-15.5%	-8.7%	-1.8%	5.0%	11.8%	18.6%

(1) The assumed portfolio return is required by regulation of the SEC and is not a prediction of, and does not represent, our projected or actual performance.

(2) In order to compute the "Corresponding Return to Common Stockholders," the "Assumed Return on Portfolio" is multiplied by the total value of our assets at March 31, 2006 to obtain an assumed return to us. From this amount, the interest expense calculated by multiplying the interest rate of 5.6566% times the $185.2 million debt is subtracted to determine the return available to stockholders. The return available to stockholders is then divided by the total value of our net assets as of March 31, 2006 to determine the "Corresponding Return to Common Stockholders."

We will be exposed to risks associated with changes in interest rates.

General interest rate fluctuations may have a substantial negative impact on our investments and investment opportunities and, accordingly, may have a material adverse effect on investment objectives and our rate of return on invested capital. Because we borrow money to make investments, our net investment income is dependent upon the difference between the rate at which we borrow funds and the rate at which we invest these funds. As a result, there can be no assurance that a significant change in market interest rates will not have a material adverse effect on our net investment income. Trading prices for debt that pays a fixed rate of return tend to fall as interest rates rise. Trading prices tend to fluctuate more for fixed-rate securities that have longer maturities. Although we have no policy governing the maturities of our investments, under current market conditions we expect that we will invest in a portfolio of debt generally having maturities of up to 10 years. This means that we will be subject to greater risk (other things being equal) than a fund invested solely in shorter-term securities. A decline in the prices of the debt we own could adversely affect the trading price of our shares.

Many of our portfolio investments are not publicly traded and, as a result, there will be uncertainty as to the value of our portfolio investments.

A large percentage of our portfolio investments are not publicly traded. The fair value of investments that are not publicly traded may not be readily determinable. We value these investments quarterly at fair value as determined in good faith by our board of directors. However, we may be required to value our investments more frequently as determined in good faith by our board of directors to the extent necessary to reflect significant events affecting their value. Where appropriate, our board of directors may utilize the services of an independent valuation firm to aid it in determining fair value. The types of factors that may be considered in valuing our investments include the nature and realizable value of any collateral, the portfolio company's ability to make payments and its earnings, the markets in which the portfolio company does business, comparison to publicly traded companies, discounted cash flow and other relevant factors. Because such valuations, and particularly valuations of private investments and private companies, are inherently uncertain, may fluctuate over short periods of time and may be based on estimates, our determinations of fair value may differ materially from the values that would have been used if a ready market for these investments existed. Our net asset value could be adversely affected if our determinations regarding the fair value of our investments are materially higher than the values that we ultimately realize.

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

We generally make investments in private companies. Substantially all of these investments will be subject to legal and other restrictions on resale or otherwise are less liquid than publicly traded securities. The illiquidity of our investments may make it difficult for us to sell such investments if the need arises. In addition, if we are required to liquidate all or a portion of our portfolio quickly, we may realize significantly less than the value at which we have previously recorded our investments. In addition, we may face other restrictions on our ability to liquidate an investment in a portfolio company to the extent that we or an affiliated manager of Ares has material non-public information regarding such portfolio company.

We may experience fluctuations in our quarterly results.

We could experience fluctuations in our quarterly operating results due to a number of factors, including the interest rate payable on the debt investments we make, the default rate on such investments, the level of our expenses, variations in and the timing of the recognition of realized and unrealized gains or losses and the degree to which we encounter competition in our markets and general economic conditions. As a result of these factors, results for any period should not be relied upon as being indicative of performance in future periods.

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

Certain of our executive officers and directors, and members of the investment committee of our investment adviser serve or may serve as officers, directors or principals of other entities and affiliates of our adviser and investment funds managed by our affiliates. Accordingly, they may have obligations to investors in those entities, the fulfillment of which might not be in the best interests of us or our stockholders or that may require them to devote time to services for other entities, which could interfere with the time available to provide services to us. For example, Messrs. Ressler, Rosenthal, Kissick and Sachs each are and, will continue to be, founding members of Ares with significant responsibilities for other Ares funds. Mr. Ressler and Mr. Rosenthal are required to devote a substantial majority of their business time, and Mr. Kissick is required to devote a majority of his business time, to the affairs of ACOF. Ares believes that the efforts of Messrs. Ressler, Rosenthal and Kissick relative to Ares Capital and ACOF are synergistic with and beneficial to the affairs of each of Ares Capital and ACOF.

Although other Ares funds generally have different primary investment objectives than Ares Capital, they may from time to time invest in asset classes similar to those targeted by Ares Capital. Ares Capital Management endeavors to allocate investment opportunities in a fair and equitable manner, and in any event consistent with any fiduciary duties owed to Ares Capital. Nevertheless, it is possible that we may not be given the opportunity to participate in certain investments made by investment funds managed by investment managers affiliated with Ares Capital Management.

We pay management and incentive fees to Ares Capital Management, and reimburse Ares Capital Management for certain expenses it incurs. As a result, investors in our common stock will invest on a gross basis and receive distributions on a net basis after expenses, resulting in, among other things, a lower rate of return than one might achieve through direct investments.

Ares Capital Management's management fee is based on a percentage of our total assets (other than cash or cash equivalents but including assets purchased with borrowed funds) and Ares Capital Management may have conflicts of interest in connection with decisions that could affect the Company's total assets, such as decisions as to whether to incur debt.

The incentive fees payable to our investment adviser are subject to certain hurdles. To the extent we or Ares Capital Management are able to exert influence over our portfolio companies, these hurdles may provide Ares Capital Management (subject to its fiduciary duty to us) with an incentive to induce our portfolio companies to accelerate or defer interest or other obligations owed to us from one calendar quarter to another under circumstances where accrual would not otherwise occur, such as acceleration or deferral of the declaration of a dividend or the timing of a voluntary redemption.

Acceleration of obligations may result in stockholders recognizing taxable gains earlier than anticipated, while deferral of obligations creates incremental risk of an obligation becoming uncollectible in whole or in part if the issuer of the security suffers subsequent deterioration in its financial condition. Any such inducement by the investment adviser solely for the purpose of adjusting the incentive fees would be a breach of the investment adviser's fiduciary duty to us.

The part of the incentive fee payable by us that relates to our pre-incentive fee net investment income is computed and paid on income that may include interest that is accrued but not yet received in cash. If a portfolio company defaults on a loan that is structured to provide accrued interest, it is possible that accrued interest previously used in the calculation of the incentive fee will become uncollectible.

Pursuant to a separate administration agreement, Ares Administration, an affiliate of Ares Capital Management, furnishes us with office space and we pay Ares Administration our allocable portion of overhead and other expenses incurred by Ares Administration in performing its obligations under the administration agreement, including rent and our allocable portion of the cost of our officers and their respective staffs. However, we have entered into a new lease and as of July 2006 will lease new office facilities directly (the "New Office Space") from a third party. In addition, we have entered into a sublease with Ares Management LLC whereby Ares Management will sublease approximately 25% of the New Office Space for a fixed rent equal to 25% of the basic annual rent payable by us under the new lease, plus certain additional costs and expenses. As a result of these arrangements, there may be times when the management team of Ares Capital Management has interests that differ from those of our stockholders, giving rise to a conflict.

Our stockholders may have conflicting investment, tax and other objectives with respect to their investments in us. The conflicting interests of individual stockholders may relate to or arise from, among other things, the nature of our investments, the structure or the acquisition of our investments, and the timing of disposition of our investments. As a consequence, conflicts of interest may arise in connection with decisions made by our investment adviser, including with respect to the nature or structuring of our investments, that may be more beneficial for one stockholder than for another stockholder, especially with respect to stockholders' individual tax situations. In selecting and structuring investments appropriate for us, our investment adviser will consider the investment and tax objectives of Ares Capital and our stockholders as a whole, not the investment, tax or other objectives of any stockholder individually.

Our investment adviser's liability is limited under the investment management agreement, and we will indemnify our investment adviser against certain liabilities, which may lead our investment adviser to act in a riskier manner on our behalf than it would when acting for its own account.

Our investment adviser has not assumed any responsibility to us other than to render the services described in the investment management agreement, and it will not be responsible for any action of our board of directors in declining to follow our investment adviser's advice or recommendations. Pursuant to the investment management agreement, our investment adviser and its managing members, officers and employees will not be liable to us for their acts, under the investment management agreement, absent willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard in the performance of their duties. We have agreed to indemnify, defend and protect our investment

adviser and its managing members, officers and employees with respect to all damages, liabilities, costs and expenses resulting from acts of our investment adviser not arising out of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard in the performance of their duties under the investment management agreement. These protections may lead our investment adviser to act in a riskier manner when acting on our behalf than it would when acting for its own account.

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

Our investment adviser is entitled to incentive compensation for each fiscal quarter in an amount equal to a percentage of the excess of our investment income for that quarter (before deducting incentive compensation, net operating losses and certain other items) above a threshold return for that quarter. Our pre-incentive fee net investment income for incentive compensation purposes excludes realized and unrealized capital losses that we may incur in the fiscal quarter, even if such capital losses result in a net loss on our statement of operations for that quarter. Thus, we may be required to pay our manager incentive compensation for a fiscal quarter even if there is a decline in the value of our portfolio or we incur a net loss for that quarter.

Under the investment advisory and management agreement, we will defer cash payment of any incentive fee 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) is less than 8.0% of our net assets at the beginning of such period. These calculations will be adjusted for any share issuances or repurchases.

Changes in laws or regulations governing our operations, or changes in the interpretation thereof, and any failure by us to comply with laws or regulations governing our operations may adversely affect our business.

We and our portfolio companies are subject to regulation by laws at the local, state and federal levels. These laws and regulations, as well as their interpretation, may be changed from time to time. Accordingly, any change in these laws or regulations, or their interpretation, or any failure by us to comply with these laws or regulations may adversely affect our business. As discussed above, there is a risk that certain investments that we intend to treat as qualifying assets will be determined to not be eligible for such treatment. Any such determination would have a material adverse effect on our business.

Our ability to enter into transactions with our affiliates is restricted.

We are prohibited under the 1940 Act from knowingly participating in certain transactions with our affiliates without the prior approval of our independent directors. Any person that owns, directly or indirectly, 5% or more of our outstanding voting securities is our affiliate for purposes of the 1940 Act and we are generally prohibited from buying or selling any security from or to such affiliate, absent the prior approval of our independent directors. The 1940 Act also prohibits "joint" transactions with an affiliate, which could include investments in the same portfolio company (whether at the same or different times), without prior approval of our independent directors. If a person acquires more than 25% of our voting securities, we are prohibited from buying or selling any security from or to such person, or entering into joint transactions with such person, absent the prior approval of the SEC.

RISKS RELATING TO OUR INVESTMENTS

Our investments may be risky, and you could lose all or part of your investment.

The debt that we invest in is typically not rated by any rating agency, but we believe that if such investments were rated, they would be below investment grade (rated lower than "Baa3" by

Moody's or lower than "BBB-" by Standard & Poor's). Indebtedness of below investment grade quality is regarded as having predominantly speculative characteristics with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay interest and repay principal. Our mezzanine investments may result in an above average amount of risk and volatility or loss of principal. We also invest in assets other than mezzanine investments including first and second lien loans, high-yield securities, U.S. government securities, credit derivatives and other structured securities and certain direct equity investments. These investments will entail additional risks that could adversely affect our investment returns. In addition, to the extent interest payments associated with such debt are deferred, such debt will be subject to greater fluctuations in value based on changes in interest rates. Also, such debt could subject us to phantom income, and since we generally do not receive any cash prior to maturity of the debt, the investment is of greater risk.

In addition, investments in middle market companies involve a number of significant risks, including:

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

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

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

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

- they may have difficulty accessing the capital markets to meet future capital needs.

When we invest in first and second lien senior loans or mezzanine debt, we may acquire warrants or other equity securities as well. Our goal is ultimately to dispose of such equity interests and realize gains upon our disposition of such interests. However, the equity interests we receive may not appreciate in value and, in fact, may decline in value. Accordingly, we may not be able to realize gains from our equity interests, and any gains that we do realize on the disposition of any equity interests may not be sufficient to offset any other losses we experience.

Our portfolio is concentrated in a limited number of portfolio companies, which subjects us to a risk of significant loss if any of these companies defaults on its obligations.

As of March 31, 2006, we were invested in 48 portfolio companies. This number may be higher or lower depending on the amount of our assets under management at any given time, market conditions and the extent to which we employ leverage, and will likely fluctuate over time. A consequence of this limited number of investments is that the aggregate returns we realize may be significantly adversely affected if a small number of investments perform poorly or if we need to write down the value of any one investment. Beyond our income tax diversification requirements, we do not

have fixed guidelines for diversification, and our investments could be concentrated in relatively few portfolio companies.

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

Many of our portfolio companies may be susceptible to economic slowdowns or recessions and may be unable to repay our loans during these periods. Therefore, our non-performing assets are likely to increase and the value of our portfolio is likely to decrease during these periods. Adverse economic conditions also may decrease the value of collateral securing some of our loans and the value of our equity investments. Economic slowdowns or recessions could lead to financial losses in our portfolio and a decrease in revenues, net income and assets. Unfavorable economic conditions also could increase our funding costs, limit our access to the capital markets or result in a decision by lenders not to extend credit to us. These events could prevent us from increasing investments and harm our operating results.

A portfolio company's failure to satisfy financial or operating covenants imposed by us or other lenders could lead to defaults and, potentially, acceleration of the time when the loans are due and foreclosure on its secured assets, which could trigger cross-defaults under other agreements and jeopardize our portfolio company's ability to meet its obligations under the debt that we hold and the value of any equity securities we own. We may incur expenses to the extent necessary to seek recovery upon default or to negotiate new terms with a defaulting portfolio company.

There may be circumstances where our debt investments could be subordinated to claims of other creditors or we could be subject to lender liability claims.

If one of our portfolio companies were to go bankrupt, even though we may have structured our interest as senior debt, depending on the facts and circumstances, including the extent to which we actually provided managerial assistance to that portfolio company, a bankruptcy court might recharacterize our debt holding and subordinate all or a portion of our claim to that of other creditors. In addition, lenders can be subject to lender liability claims for actions taken by them where they become too involved in the borrower's business or exercise control over the borrower. It is possible that we could become subject to a lender's liability claim, including as a result of actions taken if we actually render significant managerial assistance.

An investment strategy focused primarily on privately-held companies presents certain challenges, including the lack of available information about these companies and a greater vulnerability to economic downturns.

We invest primarily in privately-held companies. Generally, little public information exists about these companies, and we are required to rely on the ability of Ares Capital Management's investment professionals to obtain adequate information to evaluate the potential returns from investing in these companies. These companies and their financial information are not subject to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and other rules that govern public companies. If we are unable to uncover all material information about these companies, we may not make a fully informed investment decision, and we may lose money on our investments. Also, privately-held companies frequently have less diverse product lines and smaller market presence than larger competitors, subjecting them to greater vulnerability to economic downturns. These factors could affect our investment returns.

Our portfolio companies may incur debt or issue equity securities that rank equally with, or senior to, our investments in such companies.

Our portfolio companies usually have, or may be permitted to incur, other debt, or issue other equity securities, that rank equally with, or senior to, our investments. By their terms, such instruments may provide that the holders are entitled to receive payment of dividends, interest or principal on or before the dates on which we are entitled to receive payments in respect of our investments. These debt instruments usually prohibit the portfolio companies from paying interest on or repaying our investments in the event and during the continuance of a default under such debt. Also, in the event of insolvency, liquidation, dissolution, reorganization or bankruptcy of a portfolio company, holders of securities ranking senior to our investment in that portfolio company typically are entitled to receive payment in full before we receive any distribution in respect of our investment. After repaying such holders, the portfolio company may not have any remaining assets to use for repaying its obligation to us. In the case of securities ranking equally with our investments, we would have to share on an equal basis any distributions with other security holders in the event of an insolvency, liquidation, dissolution, reorganization or bankruptcy of the relevant portfolio company.

Investments in equity securities involve a substantial degree of risk.

We may purchase common and other equity securities. Although common stocks have historically generated higher average total returns than fixed-income securities over the long term, common stocks also have experienced significantly more volatility in those returns and in recent years have significantly under performed relative to fixed-income securities. The equity securities we acquire may fail to appreciate and may decline in value or become worthless and our ability to recover our investment will depend on our portfolio company's success. Investments in equity securities involve a number of significant risks, including:

- any equity investment we make in a portfolio company could be subject to further dilution as a result of the issuance of additional equity interests and to serious risks as a junior security that will be subordinate to all indebtedness or senior securities in the event that the issuer is unable to meet its obligations or becomes subject to a bankruptcy process;

- to the extent that the portfolio company requires additional capital and is unable to obtain it, we may not recover our investment in equity securities; and

- in some cases, equity securities in which we invest will not pay current dividends, and our ability to realize a return on our investment, as well as to recover our investment, will be dependent on the success of our portfolio companies. Even if the portfolio companies are successful, our ability to realize the value of our investment may be dependent on the occurrence of a liquidity event, such as a public offering or the sale of the portfolio company. It is likely to take a significant amount of time before a liquidity event occurs or we can sell our equity investments. In addition, the equity securities we receive or invest in may be subject to restrictions on resale during periods in which it could be advantageous to sell.

There are special risks associated with investing in preferred securities, including:

- Preferred securities may include provisions that permit the issuer, at its discretion, to defer distributions for a stated period without any adverse consequences to the issuer. If we own a preferred security that is deferring its distributions, we may be required to report income for tax purposes although it has not yet received such income.

- Preferred securities are subordinated to debt in terms of priority to corporate income and liquidation payments, and therefore will be subject to greater credit risk than debt.

- Preferred securities may be substantially less liquid than many other securities, such as common stocks or U.S. government securities.
- Generally, preferred security holders have no voting rights with respect to the issuing company, subject to limited exceptions.

Our incentive fee may induce Ares Capital Management to make certain investments, including speculative investments.

The incentive fee payable by us to Ares Capital Management may create an incentive for Ares Capital Management to make investments on our behalf that are risky or more speculative than would be the case in the absence of such compensation arrangement. The way in which the incentive fee payable to our investment adviser is determined, which is calculated as a percentage of the return on invested capital, may encourage our investment adviser to use leverage to increase the return on our investments. Under certain circumstances, the use of leverage may increase the likelihood of default, which would disfavor the holders of our common stock. In addition, the investment adviser will receive the incentive fee based, in part, upon net capital gains realized on our investments. Unlike the portion of the incentive fee based on income, there is no hurdle rate applicable to the portion of the incentive fee based on net capital gains. As a result, the investment adviser may have a tendency to invest more in investments that are likely to result in capital gains as compared to income producing securities. Such a practice could result in our investing in more speculative securities than would otherwise be the case, which could result in higher investment losses, particularly during economic downturns. The part of the incentive fee payable by us that relates to our pre-incentive fee net investment income will be computed and paid on income that may include interest that is accrued but not yet received in cash. If a portfolio company defaults on a loan that is structured to provide accrued interest, it is possible that accrued interest previously used in the calculation of the incentive fee will become uncollectible. The investment adviser is not under any obligation to reimburse us for any part of the incentive fee it received that was based on accrued income that we never receive as a result of a default by an entity on the obligation that resulted in the accrual of such income.

Because of the structure of the incentive fee, it is possible that we may have to pay an incentive fee in a quarter where we incur a loss. For example, if we receive pre-incentive fee net investment income in excess of the hurdle rate for a quarter, we will pay the applicable incentive fee even if we have incurred a loss in that quarter due to realized capital losses. In addition, if market interest rates rise, we may be able to invest our funds in debt instruments that provide for a higher return, which would increase our pre-incentive fee net investment income and make it easier for our investment adviser to surpass the fixed hurdle rate and receive an incentive fee based on such net investment income.

Our investments in foreign debt may involve significant risks in addition to the risks inherent in U.S. investments. We may expose ourselves to risks if we engage in hedging transactions.

Our investment strategy contemplates potential investments in debt of foreign companies. Investing in foreign companies may expose us to additional risks not typically associated with investing in U.S. companies. These risks include changes in exchange control regulations, political and social instability, expropriation, imposition of foreign taxes, less liquid markets and less available information than is generally the case in the United States, higher transaction costs, less government supervision of exchanges, brokers and issuers, less developed bankruptcy laws, difficulty in enforcing contractual obligations, lack of uniform accounting and auditing standards and greater price volatility.

Although most of our investments will be U.S. dollar-denominated, our investments that are denominated in a foreign currency will be subject to the risk that the value of a particular currency will change in relation to one or more other currencies. Among the factors that may affect currency values

are trade balances, the level of short-term interest rates, differences in relative values of similar assets in different currencies, long-term opportunities for investment and capital appreciation, and political developments. We may employ hedging techniques to minimize these risks, but we cannot assure you that such strategies will be effective.

If we engage in hedging transactions, we may expose ourselves to risks associated with such transactions. We may utilize instruments such as forward contracts, currency options and interest rate swaps, caps, collars and floors to seek to hedge against fluctuations in the relative values of our portfolio positions from changes in currency exchange rates and market interest rates. Use of these hedging instruments may include counter-party credit risk. Hedging against a decline in the values of our portfolio positions does not eliminate the possibility of fluctuations in the values of such positions or prevent losses if the values of such positions decline. However, such hedging can establish other positions designed to gain from those same developments, thereby offsetting the decline in the value of such portfolio positions. Such hedging transactions may also limit the opportunity for gain if the values of the portfolio positions should increase. Moreover, it may not be possible to hedge against an exchange rate or interest rate fluctuation that is so generally anticipated that we are not able to enter into a hedging transaction at an acceptable price.

The success of our hedging transactions will depend on our ability to correctly predict movements, currencies and interest rates. Therefore, while we may enter into such transactions to seek to reduce currency exchange rate and interest rate risks, unanticipated changes in currency exchange rates or interest rates may result in poorer overall investment performance than if we had not engaged in any such hedging transactions. In addition, the degree of correlation between price movements of the instruments used in a hedging strategy and price movements in the portfolio positions being hedged may vary. Moreover, for a variety of reasons, we may not seek to establish a perfect correlation between such hedging instruments and the portfolio holdings being hedged. Any such imperfect correlation may prevent us from achieving the intended hedge and expose us to risk of loss. In addition, it may not be possible to hedge fully or perfectly against currency fluctuations affecting the value of securities denominated in non-U.S. currencies because the value of those securities is likely to fluctuate as a result of factors not related to currency fluctuations.

We will initially invest a portion of the net proceeds of offerings pursuant to this prospectus primarily in high-quality short-term investments, which will generate lower rates of return than those expected from the interest generated on first and second lien loans and mezzanine debt.

We will initially invest a portion of the net proceeds primarily in cash, cash equivalents, U.S. government securities and other high-quality short-term investments. These securities may earn yields substantially lower than the income that we anticipate receiving once we are fully invested in accordance with our investment objectives. As a result, we may not be able to achieve our investment objectives and/or pay any dividends during this period or, if we are able to do so, such dividends may be substantially lower than the dividends that we expect to pay when our portfolio is fully invested. If we do not realize yields in excess of our expenses, we may incur operating losses and the market price of our shares may decline.

When we are a debt or minority equity investor in a portfolio company, we may not be in a position to control the entity, and management of the company may make decisions that could decrease the value of our portfolio holdings.

We make both debt and minority equity investments; therefore, we are subject to the risk that a portfolio company may make business decisions with which we disagree, and the stockholders and management of such company may take risks or otherwise act in ways that do not serve our interests. As a result, a portfolio company may make decisions that could decrease the value of our portfolio holdings.

Our board of directors may change our operating policies and strategies without prior notice or stockholder approval, the effects of which may be adverse.

Our board of directors has the authority to modify or waive our current operating policies and our strategies without prior notice and without stockholder approval. We cannot predict the effect any changes to our current operating policies and strategies would have on our business, operating results and value of our stock. However, the effects might be adverse, which could negatively impact our ability to pay you dividends and cause you to lose all or part of your investment.

RISKS RELATING TO OFFERINGS PURSUANT TO THIS PROSPECTUS

There is a risk that you may not receive dividends or that our dividends may not grow over time.

We intend to make distributions on a quarterly basis to our stockholders out of assets legally available for distribution. We cannot assure you that we will achieve investment results that will allow us to make a specified level of cash distributions or year-to-year increases in cash distributions. In addition, due to the asset coverage test applicable to us as a BDC, we may be limited in our ability to make distributions. Further, if we invest a greater amount of assets in equity securities that do not pay current dividends, it could reduce the amount available for distribution. See "Distributions."

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

The Maryland General Corporation Law, our charter and our bylaws contain provisions that may discourage, delay or make more difficult a change in control of Ares Capital or the removal of our directors. We are subject to the Maryland Business Combination Act, subject to any applicable requirements of the 1940 Act. Our board of directors has adopted a resolution exempting from the Business Combination Act any business combination between us and any other person, subject to prior approval of such business combination by our board, including approval by a majority of our disinterested directors. If the resolution exempting business combinations is repealed or our board does not approve a business combination, the Business Combination Act may discourage third parties from trying to acquire control of us and increase the difficulty of consummating such an offer. Our bylaws exempt from the Maryland Control Share Acquisition Act acquisitions of our stock by any person. If we amend our bylaws to repeal the exemption from the Control Share Acquisition Act, the Control Share Acquisition Act also may make it more difficult for a third party to obtain control of us and increase the difficulty of consummating such an offer.

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

Investing in our shares may involve an above average degree of risk.

The investments we make in accordance with our investment objectives may result in a higher amount of risk than alternative investment options and volatility or loss of principal. Our investments in portfolio companies may be highly speculative and aggressive, and therefore, an investment in our shares may not be suitable for someone with lower risk tolerance.

The market price of our common stock may fluctuate significantly.

The market price and liquidity of the market for shares of our common stock may be significantly affected by numerous factors, some of which are beyond our control and may not be directly related to our operating performance. These factors include:

- significant volatility in the market price and trading volume of securities of business development companies or other companies in our sector, which are not necessarily related to the operating performance of these companies;
- price and volume fluctuations in the overall stock market from time to time;
- changes in regulatory policies or tax guidelines, particularly with respect to RICs or business development companies;
- loss of RIC status;
- changes in earnings or variations in operating results;
- changes in the value of our portfolio of investments;
- any shortfall in revenue or net income or any increase in losses from levels expected by investors or securities analysts;
- departure of Ares Capital Management's key personnel;
- operating performance of companies comparable to us;
- general economic trends and other external factors; and
- loss of a major funding source.

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

We may allocate the net proceeds from offerings in ways with which you may not agree.

We will have significant flexibility in investing the net proceeds of offerings pursuant to this prospectus and may use the net proceeds in ways with which you may not agree or for purposes other than those contemplated at the time of such offering.

Our shares may trade at discounts from net asset value.

Shares of closed-end investment companies frequently trade at a market price that is less than the net asset value that is attributable to those shares. This characteristic of closed-end investment companies is separate and distinct from the risk that our net asset value per share may decline. It is not possible to predict whether the shares offered hereby will trade at, above, or below net asset value.

Investors in offerings will incur immediate dilution upon the closing of this offering.

We expect the public offering price of our shares to be higher than the book value per share of our outstanding common stock. Accordingly, investors purchasing shares of common stock in offerings pursuant to this prospectus will pay a price per share that exceeds the tangible book value per share after such offering.

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

Sales of substantial amounts of our common stock, or the availability of such shares for sale, could adversely affect the prevailing market prices for our common stock. If this occurs and continues, it could impair our ability to raise additional capital through the sale of equity securities should we desire to do so.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Some of the statements in this 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 involve risks and uncertainties, including statements as to:

- our future operating results;
- our business prospects and the prospects of our portfolio companies;
- the impact of investments that we expect to make;
- our contractual arrangements and relationships with third parties;
- the dependence of our future success on the general economy and its impact on the industries in which we invest;
- the ability of our portfolio companies to achieve their objectives;
- our expected financings and investments;
- the adequacy of our cash resources and working capital;
- the timing of cash flows, if any, from the operations of our portfolio companies; and
- the ability of Ares Capital Management to locate suitable investments for us and to monitor and administer our investments.

We use words such as "anticipates," "believes," "expects," "intends" and similar expressions to identify forward-looking statements. Our actual results could differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements for any reason, including the factors set forth in "Risk Factors" and elsewhere in this prospectus.

We have based the forward-looking statements included in this prospectus on information available to us on the date of this prospectus, 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 SEC, including annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K.

You should understand that under Sections 27A(b)(2)(B) and (D) of the Securities Act of 1933 (the "Securities Act") and Sections 21E (b)(2)(B) and (D) of the Exchange Act, the "safe harbor" provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 do not apply to statements made in connection with this offering.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise specified in a prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of our securities for general corporate purposes, which includes investing in portfolio companies in accordance with our investment objectives and strategies and repaying indebtedness, if any, incurred under our Facilities. The supplement to this prospectus relating to an offering may more fully identify the use of the proceeds from such offering. We anticipate that substantially all of the net proceeds of an offering of securities pursuant to this prospectus will be used for the above purposes within two years, depending on the availability of appropriate investment opportunities consistent with our investment objectives and strategies and market conditions.

We intend to invest primarily in first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt of middle market companies, each of which may include an equity component, and, to a lesser extent, in equity securities in such companies. In addition to such investments, we may invest up to 30% of the portfolio in opportunistic investments, including high-yield bonds, debt and equity securities in collateralized debt obligation vehicles, distressed debt or equity securities of public companies. As part of this 30%, we may also invest in debt of middle market companies located outside of the United States, which investments are not anticipated to be in excess of 10% of the portfolio. Pending such investments, we will invest a portion of the net proceeds primarily in cash, cash equivalents, U.S. government securities and other high-quality short-term investments. These securities may earn yields substantially lower than the income that we anticipate receiving once we are fully invested in accordance with our investment objectives. As a result, we may not be able to achieve our investment objectives and/or pay any dividends during this period or, if we are able to do so, such dividends may be substantially lower than the dividends that we expect to pay when our portfolio is fully invested. If we do not realize yields in excess of our expenses, we may incur operating losses and the market price of our shares may decline. See "Regulation—Temporary Investments" for additional information about temporary investments we may make while waiting to make longer-term investments in pursuit of our investment objectives.

PRICE RANGE OF COMMON STOCK AND DISTRIBUTIONS

Our common stock is quoted on The NASDAQ National Market under the symbol "ARCC." We completed our initial public offering in October 2004 at the price of $15.00 per share. Prior to such date there was no public market for our common stock. Our common stock continues to trade in excess of net asset value. There can be no assurance, however, that our shares will continue to trade at a premium to our net asset value.

The following table sets forth the range of high and low closing prices of our common stock as reported on The NASDAQ National Market and the dividends declared by us for each fiscal quarter since our initial public offering. The stock quotations are interdealer quotations and do not include markups, markdowns or commissions and may not necessarily represent actual transactions.

	NAV(1)	Price Range		Premium/ Discount of High Sales Price to NAV	Premium/ Discount of Low Sales Price to NAV	Cash Dividend Per Share(2)
		High	Low			
Fiscal 2004						
Fourth quarter	$ 14.43	$ 19.75	$ 15.00	136.9%	104.1%	$ 0.30
Fiscal 2005						
First quarter	$ 14.96	$ 18.74	$ 15.57	125.3%	104.0%	$ 0.30
Second quarter	$ 14.97	$ 18.14	$ 15.96	121.2%	106.6%	$ 0.32
Third quarter	$ 15.08	$ 19.25	$ 16.18	127.7%	107.3%	$ 0.34
Fourth quarter	$ 15.03	$ 16.73	$ 15.08	111.3%	100.3%	$ 0.34
Fiscal 2006						
First quarter	$ 15.03	$ 17.97	$ 16.23	119.6%	108.0%	$ 0.36
Second quarter (through May 10, 2006)	$ *	$ 17.31	$ 16.80	*	*	$ 0.38

(1) *Net asset value per share is determined as of the last day in the relevant quarter and therefore may not reflect the net asset value per share on the date of the high and low closing sales prices. The net asset values shown are based on outstanding shares at the end of each period.*

(2) *Represents the dividend declared in the specified quarter.*

* *Net asset value has not yet been calculated for this period.*

On May 10, 2006, the last reported sales price of our common stock on The NASDAQ National Market was $17.00 per share. As of May 4, 2006, we had 6 stockholders of record (including Cede & Co.).

We currently intend to distribute quarterly dividends to our stockholders. Our quarterly dividends, if any, will be determined by our board of directors. On December 16, 2004, we declared an initial dividend of $0.30 per share for the fourth quarter of 2004, which was comprised of $0.29 ordinary income and $0.01 return of capital. On February 23, 2005, we declared a dividend of $0.30 per share for the first quarter of 2005 and on June 20, 2005, we declared a dividend of $0.32 per share for the second quarter of 2005. On September 6, 2005, we declared a dividend of $0.34 per share for the third quarter of 2005. On December 12, 2005, we declared a dividend of $0.34 per share for the fourth quarter of 2005. On February 28, 2006, we declared a dividend of $0.36 per share for the first quarter of 2006. On May 8, 2006, we declared a dividend of $0.38 per share for the second quarter of 2006. Because of our limited operating history, these are the only dividends to date that we have declared on our common stock.

To maintain our RIC status, we must distribute an amount equal to at least 90% of our ordinary income and realized net short-term capital gains in excess of realized net long-term capital losses, if any, reduced by deductible expenses, out of the assets legally available for distribution. To avoid certain excise taxes imposed on RICs, we are generally required to distribute during each calendar year an amount at least equal to the sum of (1) 98% of our ordinary income for the calendar year, (2) 98% of our capital gains in excess of capital losses for the one-year period ending on October 31 of the calendar year and (3) any ordinary income and net capital gains for preceding years that were not distributed during such years. If this requirement is not met, we will be required to pay a nondeductible excise tax equal to 4% of the amount by which 98% of the current year's taxable income exceeds the distribution for the year. The taxable income on which an excise tax is paid is generally carried forward and distributed to stockholders in the next tax year. Depending on the level of taxable income earned in a tax year, we may choose to carry forward taxable income in excess of current year distributions into the next tax year and pay a 4% excise tax on such income, as required. As of March 31, 2006, our excise tax liability was approximately $99,000.

We cannot assure you that we will achieve results that will permit the payment of any cash distributions and, if we incur indebtedness or issue senior securities, we will be prohibited from making distributions if doing so causes us to fail to maintain the asset coverage ratios stipulated by the 1940 Act or if distributions are limited by the terms of any of our borrowings.

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

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITIONS AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

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

OVERVIEW

We were incorporated in Maryland on April 16, 2004 and initially funded on June 23, 2004. We commenced material operations on October 8, 2004, when we completed our initial public offering (the "IPO") of 11,000,000 common shares, raising net proceeds of $159.8 million. On March 23, 2005, we completed an add-on offering of 12,075,000 shares of common stock, raising net proceeds of $183.9 million. On October 18, 2005, we completed an additional add-on offering of 14,500,000 shares of common stock, raising net proceeds of approximately $213.8 million. Our investment objectives are to generate both current income and capital appreciation through debt and equity investments. We invest primarily in first and second lien senior loans and long-term mezzanine debt, which in some cases may include an equity component, and, to a lesser extent, in equity investments in U.S. private middle market companies.

We are an externally managed, specialty finance company that is a closed-end, non-diversified management investment company and that is a BDC. As a BDC, we are required to comply with certain regulatory requirements. For instance, we generally have to invest at least 70% of our total assets in "qualifying assets," including securities of private U.S. companies, cash, cash equivalents, U.S. government securities and high-quality debt investments that mature in one year or less.

We have elected to be treated as a regulated investment company, or a RIC, under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. To qualify as a RIC, we must, among other things, meet certain source-of-income and asset diversification requirements. Pursuant to this election, we generally will not have to pay corporate-level taxes on any income that we distribute to our stockholders.

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Presentation

The accompanying consolidated financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, and include the accounts of the Company and its wholly owned subsidiaries. The consolidated financial statements reflect all adjustments and reclassifications which, in the opinion of management, are necessary for the fair presentation of the results of the operations and financial condition for the periods presented. All significant intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include short-term, liquid investments in a money market fund. Cash and cash equivalents are carried at cost which approximates fair value.

Concentration of Credit Risk

The Company places its cash and cash equivalents with financial institutions and, at times, cash held in money market accounts may exceed the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation insured limit.

Investments

Investment transactions are recorded on the trade date. Realized gains or losses are computed using the specific identification method. We carry our investments at fair value, as determined by our board of directors. Investments for which market quotations are readily available are valued at such market quotations. Debt and equity securities that are not publicly traded or whose market price is not readily available are valued at fair value as determined in good faith by our board of directors based on the input of our investment adviser and audit committee and, where appropriate, an independent valuation firm. The types of factors that we may take into account in fair value pricing of our investments include, as relevant, the nature and realizable value of any collateral, the portfolio company's ability to make payments and its earnings and discounted cash flow, the markets in which the portfolio company does business, comparison to publicly traded securities and other relevant factors.

When an external event such as a purchase transaction, public offering or subsequent equity sale occurs, we use the pricing indicated by the external event to corroborate our private equity valuation. Because there is not a readily available market value for most of the investments in our portfolio, we value substantially all of our portfolio investments at fair value as determined in good faith by our board under a valuation policy and a consistently applied valuation process. Due to the inherent uncertainty of determining the fair value of investments that do not have a readily available market value, the fair value of our investments may differ significantly from the values that would have been used had a ready market existed for such investments, and the differences could be material.

With respect to investments for which market quotations are not readily available, our board of directors undertakes a multi-step valuation process each quarter, as described below:

- Our quarterly valuation process begins with each portfolio company or investment being initially valued by the investment professionals responsible for the portfolio investment.
- Preliminary valuation conclusions are then documented and discussed with our senior management.
- The audit committee of our board of directors reviews these preliminary valuations. Where appropriate, the committee may utilize an independent valuation firm selected by the board of directors.
- The board of directors discusses valuations and determines the fair value of each investment in our portfolio in good faith based on the input of our investment adviser and audit committee and, where appropriate, an independent valuation firm.

Interest Income Recognition

Interest income, adjusted for amortization of premium and accretion of discount, is recorded on an accrual basis to the extent that such amounts are expected to be collected. The Company stops accruing interest on its investments when it is determined that interest is no longer collectible. If any cash is received after it is determined that interest is no longer collectible, we will treat the cash as payment on the principal balance until the entire principal balance has been repaid, before any interest income is recognized. Discounts and premiums on securities purchased are accreted/amortized over the life of the respective security using the effective yield method. The amortized cost of investments represents the original cost adjusted for the accretion of discounts and amortizations of premium on bonds.

Payment in Kind Interest

The Company has loans in its portfolio that contain a payment-in-kind ("PIK") provision. The PIK interest, computed at the contractual rate specified in each loan agreement, is added to the principal balance of the loan and recorded as interest income. To maintain the Company's status as a RIC, this non-cash source of income must be paid out to stockholders in the form of dividends, even though the Company has not yet collected the cash.

Capital Structuring Service Fees

The Company's Investment Adviser seeks to provide assistance to the portfolio companies in connection with the Company's investments and in return the Company may receive fees for capital structuring services. These fees are normally paid at the closing of the investments, are generally non-recurring and are recognized as revenue when earned upon closing of the investment. The services that the Company's Investment Adviser provides vary by investment, but generally consist of reviewing existing credit facilities, arranging bank financing, arranging equity financing, structuring financing from multiple lenders, structuring financing from equity investors, restructuring existing loans, raising equity and debt capital, and providing general financial advice, which concludes upon closing of the loan. The Company's Investment Adviser may also take a seat on the board of directors of a portfolio company, or observe the meetings of the board of directors without taking a formal seat. Any services of the above nature subsequent to the closing would generally generate a separate fee payable to the Company. In certain instances where the Company is invited to participate as a co-lender in a transaction and in the event that the Company does not provide significant services in connection with the investment, a portion of loan fees paid to the Company in such situations may be deferred and amortized over the estimated life of the loan.

Foreign Currency Translation

The Company's books and records are maintained in U.S. dollars. Any foreign currency amounts are translated into U.S. dollars on the following basis:

(1) Market value of investment securities, other assets and liabilities—at the exchange rates prevailing at the end of the day.

(2) Purchases and sales of investment securities, income and expenses—at the rates of exchange prevailing on the respective dates of such transactions.

Although the net assets and the fair values are presented at the foreign exchange rates at the end of the day, the Company does not isolate the portion of the results of the operations resulting from changes in foreign exchange rates on investments from the fluctuations arising from changes in fair value of investments. Such fluctuations are included with the net realized and unrealized gains or losses from investments. Foreign security and currency translations may involve certain considerations and risks not typically associated with investing in U.S. companies and U.S. Government securities. These risks include but are not limited to revaluation of currencies and future adverse political and economic developments which could cause investments in their markets to be less liquid and prices more volatile than those of comparable U.S. companies.

Offering Expenses

The Company's offering costs are charged against the proceeds therefrom when received.

Debt Issuance Costs

Debt issuance costs are being amortized over the life of the related credit facility using the straight line method which approximates the interest method.

Federal Income Taxes

The Company has qualified and elected and intends to continue to qualify for the tax treatment applicable to regulated investment companies under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "Code"), as amended, and, among other things, has made and intends to continue to make the requisite distributions to its stockholders which will relieve the Company from Federal income taxes. In order to qualify as a RIC, among other factors, the Company is required to timely distribute to its stockholders at least 90% of investment company taxable income, as defined by the Code, for each year.

Depending on the level of taxable income earned in a tax year, we may choose to carry forward taxable income in excess of current year dividend distributions into the next tax year and pay a 4% excise tax on such income, as required. To the extent that the Company determines that its estimated current year annual taxable income will be in excess of estimated current year dividend distributions, the Company accrues excise tax, if any, on estimated excess taxable income as taxable income is earned.

Our wholly owned subsidiaries ARCC Cervantes Corporation ("ACC") and ARCC Cervantes LLC ("ACLLC") are subject to Federal and state income taxes.

Dividends

Dividends and distributions to common stockholders are recorded on the record date. The amount to be paid out as a dividend is determined by the board of directors each quarter and is generally based upon the earnings estimated by management. Net realized capital gains, if any, are generally distributed at least annually, although we may decide to retain such capital gains for investment.

We have adopted a dividend reinvestment plan that provides for reinvestment of our distributions on behalf of our stockholders, unless a stockholder elects to receive cash. As a result, if our board of directors authorizes, and we declare, a cash dividend, then our stockholders who have not "opted out" of our dividend reinvestment plan will have their cash dividends automatically reinvested in additional shares of our common stock, rather than receiving the cash dividends.

Use of Estimates in the Preparation of Financial Statements

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of actual and contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of income or loss and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Significant estimates include the valuation of investments.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The carrying value of the Company's financial instruments approximate fair value. The carrying value of interest and open trade receivables, accounts payable and accrued expenses, as well as the credit facility payable approximate fair value due to their short maturity.

PORTFOLIO AND INVESTMENT ACTIVITY

For the three months ended March 31, 2006, we issued 13 new commitments in an aggregate amount of $209.6 million ($193.6 million to new portfolio companies and $16.0 million to existing portfolio companies) compared to five new commitments in an aggregate amount of $56.8 million ($34.3 million to new portfolio companies and $22.5 million to existing portfolio companies) for the three months ended March 31, 2005. During the three months ended March 31, 2006, we funded

$195.4 million of such commitments ($179.4 million to new portfolio companies and $16.0 million to existing portfolio companies) compared to $56.8 million of commitments ($34.3 million to new portfolio companies and $22.5 million to existing portfolio companies) for the three months ended March 31, 2005. We have remaining contractual obligations for $14.2 million with respect to the $14.2 million of commitments issued and not funded as of March 31, 2006. The weighted average yield of new income producing equity securities and debt funded in connection with investments purchased during the three months ended March 31, 2006 and March 31, 2005 was approximately 12.12% and 10.68%, respectively (computed as (a) annual stated interest rate yield earned plus the net annual amortization of original issue discount and market discount earned on accruing loans and debt securities, divided by (b) total income producing equity securities and debt at fair value).

For the three months ended March 31, 2006, the Company purchased (A) $151.5 million aggregate principal amount of senior term debt, (B) $31.6 million aggregate principal amount of senior subordinated debt and (C) $12.3 million of investments in equity securities. For the three months ended March 31, 2005, the Company purchased (1) $35.2 million aggregate principal amount of senior term debt, (2) $15.6 million aggregate principal amount of senior subordinated debt, (3) $5.8 million aggregate principal amount of senior notes and (4) $0.3 million of investments in equity securities.

During the three months ended March 31, 2006, (A) $17.9 million aggregate principal amount of senior subordinated debt and (B) $3.5 million aggregate principal amount of senior term debt were redeemed. Additionally, (1) $9.1 million of investments in equity securities were sold and (2) $6.1 million aggregate principal amount senior term debt were sold. As of March 31, 2006, the Company held investments in 48 portfolio companies. During the three months ended March 31, 2005, (a) $7.0 million aggregate principal amount of senior term debt and (b) $2.1 million aggregate principal amount of senior subordinated debt were redeemed, and (c) $0.2 million of investments in equity securities were sold.

We believe that as of March 31, 2006, the weighted average investment grade of the debt in our portfolio is 3.1 (see "Business—Ongoing Relationships With and Monitoring of Portfolio Companies" for more information about the investment grade system) and the weighted average yield of such debt and income producing equity securities is approximately 11.47% (computed as (a) annual stated interest rate or yield earned plus the net annual amortization of original issue discount and market discount earned on accruing debt, divided by (b) total income producing equity securities and debt at fair value). As of March 31, 2006, the weighted average yield on our entire portfolio was 11.07%. The weighted average yield on our senior term debt, senior subordinated debt and income producing equity securities was 11.05%, 14.76% and 8.29%, respectively. Of the senior term debt, the weighted average yield attributable to first lien senior term debt and second lien term debt was 10.30% and 11.77%, respectively.

For the year ended December 31, 2005, we issued 31 new commitments in an aggregate amount of $528.9 million ($464.9 million to new portfolio companies and $64.0 million to existing portfolio companies). During the year ended December 31, 2005, we funded $504.3 million of such commitments ($440.3 million to new portfolio companies and $64.0 million to existing portfolio companies). As of December 31, 2005, we had remaining contractual obligations for $17.2 million with respect to the $24.6 million of commitments issued and not funded. The weighted average yield of new income producing equity securities and debt funded in connection with such investments is approximately 10.50% (computed as (a) annual stated interest rate or yield earned plus the net annual amortization of original issue discount and market discount earned on accruing debt, divided by (b) total income producing securities and debt at fair value).

For the year ended December 31, 2005, the Company purchased (a) $339.3 million aggregate principal amount of senior term debt, (b) $76.6 million aggregate principal amount of senior

subordinated debt, (c) $61.4 million of investments in equity securities, (d) $18.0 million aggregate principal amount of senior notes and (e) $9.0 million of investments in collateralized debt obligations.

During the same period, (1) $38.4 million aggregate principal amount of senior term debt and (2) $27.2 million aggregate principal amount of senior subordinated debt were redeemed. Additionally, (A) $25.0 million aggregate principal amount of senior term debt, (B) $14.0 million aggregate principal amount of senior notes and (C) $3.5 million of investments in equity securities were sold.

We believe that as of December 31, 2005, the weighted average investment grade of the debt in our portfolio is 3.1 (see "Business—Ongoing Relationships With and Monitoring of Portfolio Companies" for more information about the investment grade system) and the weighted average yield of such income producing equity securities and debt is approximately 11.25% (computed as (a) annual stated interest rate or yield earned plus the net annual amortization of original issue discount and market discount earned on accruing debt, divided by (b) total income producing equity securities and debt at fair value). As of December 31, 2004, we believe the weighted average investment grade of the debt in our portfolio was 3.0 and the weighted average yield of such debt and income producing equity securities was approximately 12.36%.

On September 16, 2004, we entered into an agreement with Royal Bank of Canada and its affiliates ("RBC") whereby we agreed to pay $250,000 to RBC to acquire a right to purchase a portfolio of loans and equity investments comprising substantially of BDC qualifying assets (the "October Portfolio") that satisfy our investment objectives.

Following the completion of our IPO on October 8, 2004, we exercised our right to purchase substantially all of the assets in the October Portfolio from RBC for approximately $122.3 million. We purchased additional assets originally included in the October Portfolio from RBC for approximately $18.5 million on November 3, 2004.

Aside from the purchase of the October Portfolio, the Company also purchased (A) $52.2 million of senior term debt, (B) $34.6 million of senior subordinated debt, (C) $6.1 million of senior notes, (D) $0.3 million of investments in equity securities and (E) $9.7 million of publicly traded fixed income securities during the period from October 8, 2004 (the date of the IPO and commencement of substantial investment operations) through December 31, 2004.

In addition, we sold (i) $13.7 million of senior term debt, (ii) $8.9 million of senior subordinated debt, (iii) $0.8 million of investments in equity securities and (iv) $9.7 million of publicly traded fixed income securities during the period from October 8, 2004 (the date of the IPO and commencement of substantial investment operations) through December 31, 2004. Also during the period, (A) $6.9 million of senior term debt and (B) $22.0 million of senior subordinated debt were redeemed.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

For the three months ended March 31, 2006 and March 31, 2005

Operating results for the three months ended March 31, 2006 and March 31, 2005 are as follows:

	For the Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2006	2005
Total Investment Income	$ 20,191,305	$ 5,750,592
Total Expenses	8,290,890	2,220,763
Net Investment Income Before Income Taxes	11,900,415	3,529,829
Income Tax Expense, Including Excise Tax	208,880	—
Net Investment Income	11,691,535	3,529,829
Net Realized Gain	610,886	409,030
Net Unrealized Gain	1,540,612	4,565,047
Net Increase in Stockholders' Equity Resulting From Operations	$ 13,843,033	$ 8,503,906

Investment Income

For the three months ended March 31, 2006, total investment income increased $14.4 million, or 251%, over the three months ended March 31, 2005. For the three months ended March 31, 2006, total investment income consisted of $17.5 million in interest income from investments, $2.3 million in capital structuring service fees and $231,000 in interest income from cash and cash equivalents. Interest income from investments increased $12.3 million, or 235%, to $17.5 million for the three months ended March 31, 2006 from $5.2 million for the comparable period in 2005. The increase in interest income from investments was primarily due to the increase in the size of the portfolio. The average investments, at fair value, for the quarter increased from $198.2 million in the three months ended March 31, 2005 to $647.0 million in the comparable period in 2006. Capital structuring service fees increased $2.0 million, or 667%, to $2.3 million for the three months ended March 31, 2006 from $304,000 for the comparable period in 2005. The increase in capital structuring service fees was due to the increased number of originations. The number of funded commitments increased from five during the three months ended March 31, 2005 to thirteen during the comparable period in 2006.

Expenses

For the three months ended March 31, 2006, total expenses increased $6.1 million, or 273%, over the three months ended March 31, 2005. Base management fees increased $1.7 million, or 212%, to $2.5 million for the three months ended March 31, 2006 from $815,000 for the comparable period in 2005, primarily due to the increase in the size of the portfolio. Incentive fees related to pre-incentive fee net investment income increased $2.7 million, or 1,129%, to $2.9 million for the three months ended March 31, 2006 from $238,000 for the comparable period in 2005, primarily due to the increase in the size of the portfolio and the related increase in net investment income. Interest expense and credit facility fees increased $947,000, or 252%, to $1.3 million for the three months ended March 31, 2006 from $375,000 for the comparable period in 2005, primarily due to the increase in the borrowings outstanding. The average outstanding borrowings during the quarter increased from $34.4 million for the three months ended March 31, 2005 to $82.9 million in the comparable period in 2006. Amortization of debt issuance costs increased $342,000, or 520%, to $407,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2006 from $66,000 for the comparable period in 2005, primarily due to the additional debt issuance costs incurred during the last twelve months ended March 31, 2006 as a result of entering

into the new Revolving Credit Facility and increasing the borrowing capacity of the CP Funding Facility.

Income Tax Expense, Including Excise Tax

The Company has qualified and elected and intends to continue to qualify and elect for the tax treatment applicable to regulated investment companies under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "Code"), as amended, and, among other things, has made and intends to continue to make the requisite distributions to its stockholders which will relieve the Company from Federal income taxes.

Depending on the level of taxable income earned in a tax year, we may choose to carry forward taxable income in excess of current year dividend distributions into the next tax year and pay a 4% excise tax on such income, as required. To the extent that the Company determines that its estimated current year annual taxable income will be in excess of estimated current year dividend distributions, the Company accrues excise tax, if any, on estimated excess taxable income as taxable income is earned. For the three months ended March 31, 2006, a provision of approximately $99,000 was recorded for Federal excise tax.

Our wholly owned subsidiaries ACC and ACLLC are subject to Federal and state income taxes. For the three months ended March 31, 2006, we recorded a tax provision of approximately $110,000 for these subsidiaries.

Net Unrealized Appreciation on Investments

For the three months ended March 31, 2006, the Company's investments had an increase in net unrealized appreciation of $1.5 million, which primarily related to the increase in unrealized appreciation of $4.0 million for the Company's investment in CICQ, LP offset by the increase in unrealized depreciation of $2.4 million for the Company's investment in Making Memories Wholesale, Inc. For the three months ended March 31, 2005, the Company's investments had an increase in net unrealized appreciation of $4.6 million primarily related to the anticipated gain of Reef Holdings, Inc. that was eventually realized in the following quarter.

Net Realized Gains/Losses

During the three months ended March 31, 2006, the Company had $37.3 million of sales and repayments resulting in $611,000 of net realized gains. During the three months ended March 31, 2005, the Company had $9.7 million of sales and repayments resulting in $409,000 of net realized gains.

Net Increase in Stockholders' Equity Resulting From Operations

Net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations for the three months ended March 31, 2006 was approximately $13.8 million. Based on the weighted average shares outstanding during the three months ended March 31, 2006, our net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations per common share was $0.36.

Net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations for the three months ended March 31, 2005 was approximately $8.5 million. Based on the weighted average shares outstanding during the three months ended March 31, 2005, our net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations per common share was $0.69.

For the year ended December 31, 2005, and the period from June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004

Set forth below is a comparison of our results of operations for the year ended December 31, 2005 and the period from June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004. We were incorporated on April 16, 2004, initially funded on June 23, 2004 and commenced operations in October 2004. Therefore, there is no prior period with which to compare the results of operations for the period from June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004.

	Year Ended December 31, 2005	For the Period June 23, 2004 (inception) Through December 31, 2004
Total Investment Income	$ 41,850,477	$ 4,380,848
Net Realized and Unrealized Gain on Investments	14,727,276	475,393
Total Expenses	(14,726,677)	(1,665,753)
Net Increase in Stockholders' Equity Resulting from Operations	$ 41,851,076	$ 3,190,488
Per Share Data:		
Net Increase in Stockholder's Equity Resulting from Operations:		
Basic:	$ 1.78	$ 0.29
Diluted:	$ 1.78	$ 0.29
Cash Dividend Declared:	$ 1.30	$ 0.30
Total Assets	$ 613,645,144	$ 220,455,614
Total Debt	$ 18,000,000	$ 55,500,000
Total Stockholders' Equity	$ 569,612,199	$ 159,708,305
Other Data:		
Number of Portfolio Companies at Period End	38	20
Principal Amount of Investments Purchased(1)	$ 504,299,000	$ 234,102,000
Principal Amount of Investments Sold and Repayments(2)	$ 108,415,000	$ 52,272,000
Total Return Based on Market Value(3)	(10.60)%	31.53%
Total Return Based on Net Asset Value(4)	12.04%	(1.80)%
Weighted Average Yield of Income Producing Equity Securities and Debt(5):	11.25%	12.36%

(1) The information presented for the period June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004 includes $140.8 million of the assets purchased from Royal Bank of Canada and excludes $9.7 million of publicly traded fixed income securities.

(2) The information presented for the period June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004 excludes $9.7 million of publicly traded fixed income securities.

(3) Total return based on market value for the year ended December 31, 2005 equals the decrease of the ending market value at December 31, 2005 of $16.07 per share over the ending market value at December 31, 2004 of $19.43 per share plus the declared dividends of $1.30 per share for the year

Investment Income

Investment income for the year ended December 31, 2005 was approximately $41.9 million compared to approximately $4.4 million for the period from June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004. The increase was primarily from the use of the proceeds from the add-on offerings completed in 2005 to fund additional investments, and as a result of a full year of operations for the year ended December 31, 2005 as compared to our limited operations during the prior period. For the year ended December 31, 2005 investment income consisted of approximately $34.0 million in interest income from investments, $1.5 million in interest income from cash and cash equivalents, $745,000 in dividend income, $5.2 million in capital structuring service fees from the closing of newly originated loans, and $447,000 in facility fees and other income. Of the approximately $34.0 million in interest income from investments, non-cash PIK interest income was $3.1 million. For the period from June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004 investment income consisted of approximately $3.57 million in interest income from investments, $39,000 in interest income from cash and cash equivalents, $191,000 in dividend income, $542,000 in capital structuring service fees from the closing of newly originated loans, and $34,000 in facility fees and other income. Of the approximately $3.57 million in interest income from investments, non-cash PIK interest income was $509,000

Operating Expenses

Total operating expenses for the year ended December 31, 2005 were approximately $14.7 million compared to approximately $1.7 million for the period from June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004.

For the year ended December 31, 2005, operating expenses consisted of approximately $5.1 million in base management fees, $3.2 million in incentive management fees related to pre-incentive fee net investment income and $979,000 in incentive management fees related to realized capital gains compared to approximately $472,000 in base management fees, $60,000 in incentive management fees related to pre-incentive fee net investment income and $36,000 in incentive management fees related to realized capital gains for the period from June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004. The increase in base management fees and incentive management fees related to pre-incentive fee net investment income reflects the significantly increased size of our portfolio during the year ended December 31, 2005 as a result of the add-on offerings completed in 2005, and also reflects a full year of operations for the year ended December 31, 2005 as compared to our limited operations during the prior period. The increase in incentive management fees related to realized capital gains was a result of the sales and paydowns of several investments during the year ended December 31, 2005. Additionally, base management fees and incentive management fees were only payable beginning on October 8, 2004 (the date of the IPO and the commencement of substantial investment operations).

For the year ended December 31, 2005, total operating expenses also consisted of $888,000 in general and administrative expenses, $1.4 million in professional fees, $310,000 for director fees, $631,000 in insurance expenses, $1.1 million in interest expense and facility fees, $154,000 in interest payable to the investment adviser, $465,000 in amortization of debt issuance cost, $311,000 in other expense and $158,000 in excise tax related to excess taxable income carried forward into 2006. For the period from June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004 total expenses consisted of $136,000 in general and administrative expenses, $336,000 in professional fees, $120,000 for director fees, $162,000 in insurance expenses, $96,000 in interest expense and facility fees, $41,000 in amortization of debt issuance cost, $8,000 in other expense, and a one-time charge of $199,000 in organizational expenses. The increases are primarily a result of the larger size of our portfolio and also reflect a full year of operations for the year ended December 31, 2005 as compared to the prior period.

Net Realized Gains

During the year ended December 31, 2005, the Company had $118.8 million of sales and repayments resulting in $10.3 million of net realized gains compared to the period from June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004 which had $53.5 million of sales and repayments resulting in $244,000 of net realized gains. The increase in net realized gains was primarily a result of the sales and paydowns of several investments during the year ended December 31, 2005.

Net Change in Unrealized Appreciation on Investments

During the year ended December 31, 2005, the Company's investments had an increase in net unrealized appreciation of $4.4 million as compared to $231,000 for the period from June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004. The increase in net unrealized appreciation was primarily a result of the appreciation of one investment offset by the depreciation of several other investments during the year ended December 31, 2005.

Net Increase in Stockholders' Equity Resulting From Operations

Net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations for the year ended December 31, 2005 was approximately $41.9 million compared to $3.2 million for the period from June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004. Our net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations per common share for the year ended December 31, 2005 was $1.78 compared to $0.29 for the period from June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004.

FINANCIAL CONDITION, LIQUIDITY, AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

On October 8, 2004, we completed our IPO of 11,000,000 shares of common stock at $15.00 per share, less an underwriting discount and commissions totaling $.675 per share. Ares Capital Management agreed to pay the underwriters $.225 per share, or $2,475,000, in underwriting and commissions on the Company's behalf. We were obligated to repay this amount, together with the accrued interest upon the occurrence of one or more of the following events on or before October 8, 2007: (a) if during any four calendar periods ending on or after October 8, 2005 the sum of (i) the aggregate distributions to the stockholders and (ii) the change in net assets (defined as total assets less indebtedness) equals or exceeds 7.0% of the net assets at the beginning of such period (as adjusted for any share issuances or repurchases) or (b) upon the Company's liquidation. On March 8, 2005, the Company's board of directors approved entering into an amended and restated agreement with Ares Capital Management whereby the Company would be obligated to repay Ares Capital Management for the approximate $2.5 million only if the conditions for repayment referred to above were met before the third anniversary of the IPO. In accordance with the terms of the amended and restated agreement with Ares Capital Management, in February 2006, we repaid this amount together with accrued interest. We received approximately $159.8 million in net proceeds from the IPO.

On March 23, 2005, we completed an add-on public offering (the "Add-on Offering") of 12,075,000 shares of common stock (including the underwriters' overallotment of 1,575,000 common shares) at $16.00 per share, less an underwriting discount and commissions totaling $.72 per share. We received approximately $183.9 million in proceeds net of underwriting and offering costs.

On October 18, 2005, we completed an additional add-on public offering (the "October Add-on Offering") of 14,500,000 shares of common stock at $15.46 per share, less an underwriting discount and commissions totaling $0.6957 per share. We received approximately $213.8 million in proceeds net of underwriting and offering costs.

A portion of the proceeds from the Add-on Offering and the October Add-on Offering was used to repay outstanding indebtedness under the CP Funding Facility. The remaining unused portion

of the proceeds from the Add-on Offering and October Add-on Offering has been used to fund investments in portfolio companies in accordance with our investment objectives and strategies.

As of March 31, 2006, December 31, 2005 and December 31, 2004, the fair value of investments and cash and cash equivalents, and the outstanding borrowing under the Facilities were as follows:

	March 31, 2006	December 31, 2005	December 31, 2004
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 19,034,286	$ 16,613,334	$ 26,806,160
Senior term debt	480,455,437	338,467,061	63,118,678
Senior notes	10,000,000	10,000,000	5,997,645
Senior subordinated debt	144,489,390	130,042,698	78,169,595
Collateralized debt obligations	17,184,257	17,386,561	8,281,768
Equity securities	95,016,065	90,072,055	26,992,461
Total	$ 766,179,435	$ 602,581,709	$ 209,366,307
Outstanding borrowings	$ 185,200,000	$ 18,000,000	$ 55,500,000

In order to provide additional liquidity and to meet our investment objectives and strategies, in November 2004 we and Ares Capital CP Funding LLC, a single member, special purpose, limited liability company, wholly owned by us ("Ares Capital CP"), entered into the CP Funding Facility, pursuant to which our wholly owned subsidiary Ares Capital CP can obtain financing for the acquisition of loans from Ares Capital as described in more detail in Note 8 to our consolidated financial statements as of December 31, 2005.

The available amount for borrowing under the CP Funding Facility is $350.0 million (see Note 7 to the consolidated financial statements as of March 31, 2006 for more detail of the CP Funding Facility arrangement). As of March 31, 2006, there was $109.2 million outstanding under the CP Funding Facility. The CP Funding Facility expires on November 1, 2006 unless extended prior to such date with the consent of the lenders. The available amount for borrowing under the Revolving Credit Facility is $250.0 million (see Note 7 to the consolidated financial statements as of March 31, 2006 for more detail of the Revolving Credit Facility arrangement). As of March 31, 2006, there was $76.0 million outstanding under the Revolving Credit Facility. The Revolving Credit Facility expires on December 28, 2010. For the three months ending March 31, 2006, average total assets was $675.1 million.

In April 2005, the Company entered into an amendment that increased the available amount for borrowing under the CP Funding Facility from $150.0 million to $225.0 million and in November 2005, the Company entered into an amendment that further increased the available amount for borrowing under the CP Funding Facility from $225.0 million to $350.0 million (see Note 8 to the consolidated financial statements as of December 31, 2005 for more detail of the CP Funding Facility arrangement).

As of December 31, 2005, the outstanding principal balance under the CP Funding Facility was $18.0 million, which bears interest at a rate equal to the commercial paper rate plus 75 basis points. As of December 31, 2005, the commercial paper rate was 4.3223%. As of December 31, 2004, the outstanding principal balance under the CP Funding Facility was approximately $55.5 million which bore interest at a rate equal to the commercial paper rate plus 125 basis points. As of December 31, 2004, the commercial paper rate was 2.3152%.

In December 2005, we entered into the Revolving Credit Facility under which the lenders have agreed to extend credit to Ares Capital in an initial aggregate principal amount not exceeding $250.0 million at any one time outstanding (see Note 8 to the consolidated financial statements as of December 31, 2005 for more detail of the Revolving Credit Facility arrangement). As of December 31, 2005, there were no amounts outstanding under the Revolving Credit Facility which bears an interest

rate of LIBOR (one, two three or six month) plus 100 basis points, generally. As of December 31, 2005, the one, two, three and six month LIBOR were 4.39%, 4.48%, 4.54% and 4.70%, respectively.

A summary of our contractual payment obligations as of December 31, 2005 are as follows:

	Payments Due by Period				
	Total	Less than 1 year	1-3 years	4-5 years	After 5 years
CP Funding Facility payable	$ 18,000,000	$ 18,000,000	—	—	—
Revolving Credit Facility payable	—	—	—	—	—

OFF-BALANCE SHEET ARRANGEMENTS

As of March 31, 2006, the Company had committed to make a total of approximately $63.0 million of investments in various revolving senior secured loans. As of March 31, 2006, $37.5 million was unfunded. Included within the $63.0 million commitment in revolving secured loans is a commitment to issue up to $3.2 million in standby letters of credit through a financial intermediary on behalf of a portfolio company. Under these arrangements, the Company would be required to make payments to third-party beneficiaries if the portfolio company was to default on its related payment obligations. As of March 31, 2006, the Company had $2.3 million in standby letters of credit issued and outstanding on behalf of the portfolio company, of which no amounts were recorded as a liability on the Company's consolidated balance sheet. These letters of credit expire on September 30, 2006, but may be extended under substantially similar terms for additional one-year terms at the Company's option until the revolving line of credit, under which the letters of credit were issued, matures on September 30, 2011.

As of December 31, 2005, the Company had committed to make a total of approximately $43.0 million of investments in various revolving senior secured loans. As of December 31, 2005, $28.8 million was unfunded. Included within the $43.0 million commitment in revolving secured loans is a commitment to issue up to $3.2 million in standby letters of credit through a financial intermediary on behalf of a portfolio company. Under these arrangements, the Company would be required to make payments to third-party beneficiaries if the portfolio company was to default on its related payment obligations. As of December 31, 2005, the Company had $2.2 million in standby letters of credit issued and outstanding on behalf of the portfolio company, of which no amounts were recorded as a liability on the Company's consolidated balance sheet. These letters of credit expire on September 30, 2006, but may be extended under substantially similar terms for additional one-year terms at the Company's option until the revolving line of credit, under which the letters of credit were issued, matures on September 30, 2011.

As of December 31, 2004, the Company had committed to make a total of approximately $14.2 million of investments in various revolving senior secured loans. As of December 31, 2004, $13.8 million was unfunded.

QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

We are subject to financial market risks, including changes in interest rates and the valuations of our investment portfolio.

Interest Rate Risk

As of March 31, 2006, approximately 35% of the investments at fair value in our portfolio were at fixed rates while approximately 61% were at variable rates. In addition, the CP Funding Facility and the Revolving Credit Facility are variable rate borrowing facilities.

To illustrate the potential impact of changes in interest rates, we have performed the following analysis based on our March 31, 2006 balance sheet and assuming no changes in our investment and borrowing structure. Under this analysis, a 100 basis point increase in the various base rates would

result in an increase in interest income of approximately $4,981,000 and an increase in interest expense of $1,852,000 over the next 12 months. A 100 basis point decrease in the various base rates would result in a decrease in interest income of approximately $4,981,000 and a decrease in interest expense of $1,852,000 over the next 12 months.

As of December 31, 2005, approximately 39% of the investments at fair value in our portfolio were at fixed rates while approximately 57% were at variable rates. In addition, the Facilities are variable rate borrowing facilities.

To illustrate the potential impact of changes in interest rates, we performed the following analysis based on our December 31, 2005 balance sheet and assuming no changes in our investment and borrowing structure. Under this analysis, a 100 basis point increase in the various base rates would result in an increase in interest income of approximately $3,313,474 and an increase in interest expense of $180,000 over the next 12 months. A 100 basis point decrease in the various base rates would result in a decrease in interest income of approximately $3,313,474 and a decrease in interest expense of $180,000 over the next 12 months.

On January 7, 2005, we entered into a costless collar agreement in order to manage the exposure to changing interest rates related to the Company's fixed rate investments. The costless collar agreement was for a notional amount of $20 million, has a cap of 6.5%, a floor of 2.72% and matures in 2008. The costless collar agreement allows us to receive an interest payment when the 3-month LIBOR exceeds 6.5% and obligates us to pay an interest payment when the 3-month LIBOR is less than 2.72%. The costless collar resets quarterly based on the 3-month LIBOR. As of March 31, 2006, the 3-month LIBOR was 5.00%. As of March 31, 2006, these derivatives had no fair value. As of December 31, 2005, the 3-month LIBOR was 4.54%. As of December 31, 2005, these derivatives had no fair value.

While hedging activities may mitigate our exposure to adverse fluctuations in interest rates, certain hedging transactions that we may enter into in the future, such as interest rate swap agreements, may also limit our ability to participate in the benefits of lower interest rates with respect to our portfolio investments.

Portfolio Valuation

We carry our investments at fair value, as determined by our board of directors. Investments for which market quotations are readily available are valued at such market quotations. Debt and equity securities that are not publicly traded or whose market price is not readily available are valued at fair value as determined in good faith by our board of directors. The types of factors that we may take into account in fair value pricing of our investments include, as relevant, the nature and realizable value of any collateral, the portfolio company's ability to make payments and its earnings and discounted cash flow, the markets in which the portfolio company does business, comparison to publicly traded securities and other relevant factors.

When an external event such as a purchase transaction, public offering or subsequent equity sale occurs, we use the pricing indicated by the external event to corroborate our private equity valuation. Because there is not a readily available market value for most of the investments in our portfolio, we value substantially all of our portfolio investments at fair value as determined in good faith by our board under a valuation policy and a consistently applied valuation process. Due to the inherent uncertainty of determining the fair value of investments that do not have a readily available market value, the fair value of our investments may differ significantly from the values that would have been used had a ready market existed for such investments, and the differences could be material.

In addition, changes in the market environment and other events that may occur over the life of the investments may cause the gains or losses ultimately realized on these investments to be different than the valuations currently assigned.

SENIOR SECURITIES

Information about our senior securities is shown in the following tables as of each fiscal year ended December 31 since the Fund commenced operations, unless otherwise noted. The report of our independent registered public accounting firm on the senior securities table of December 31, 2004 and December 31, 2005 is attached as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. The "—" indicates information which the SEC expressly does not require to be disclosed for certain types of senior securities.

Class and Year	Total Amount Outstanding Exclusive of Treasury Securities(1)	Asset Coverage Per Unit(2)	Involuntary Liquidating Preference Per Unit(3)	Average Market Value Per Unit(4)
CP Funding Facility				
Fiscal 2006 (as of March 31, 2006, unaudited)	$ 109,200,000	$ 2,408.76	$ —	N/A
Fiscal 2005 (as of December 31, 2005)	$ 18,000,000	$ 32,645.12	$ —	N/A
Fiscal 2004 (as of December 31, 2004)	$ 55,500,000	$ 3,877.62	$ —	N/A
Revolving Credit Facility				
Fiscal 2006 (as of March 31, 2006, unaudited)	$ 76,000,000	$ 1,676.42	$ —	N/A
Fiscal 2005 (as of December 31, 2005)	$ —	$ —	$ —	N/A

(1) Total amount of each class of senior securities outstanding at the end of the period presented.

(2) The asset coverage ratio for a class of senior securities representing indebtedness is calculated as our consolidated total assets, less all liabilities and indebtedness not represented by senior securities, divided by senior securities representing indebtedness. This asset coverage ratio is multiplied by $1,000 to determine the Asset Coverage Per Unit. In order to determine the specific Asset Coverage Per Unit for each of the Facilities, the total Asset Coverage Per Unit was divided based on each Facility's amount outstanding at the end of the period.

(3) The amount to which such class of senior security would be entitled upon the involuntary liquidation of the issuer in preference to any security junior to it.

(4) Not applicable, as senior securities are not registered for public trading.

BUSINESS

GENERAL

Ares Capital is a specialty finance company that is a closed-end, non-diversified management investment company, regulated as a BDC under the 1940 Act. We were founded in April 2004 and completed our initial public offering on October 8, 2004. Ares Capital's investment objectives are to generate both current income and capital appreciation through debt and equity investments by primarily investing in U.S. middle market companies, where we believe the supply of primary capital is limited and the investment opportunities are most attractive.

We primarily invest in first and second lien senior loans and long-term mezzanine debt. In some cases, we may also receive warrants or options in connection with our debt investments. Our investments have generally ranged between $10 million and $50 million each, although the investment sizes may be more or less than the targeted range and are expected to grow with our capital availability. We also, to a lesser extent, make equity investments in private middle market companies. These investments are generally less than $10 million each (but may grow with our capital availability) and are usually made in conjunction with loans we make to these companies. 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.

The first and second lien senior loans generally have stated terms of three to ten years and the mezzanine debt investments generally have stated terms of up to ten years, but the expected average life of such first and second lien loans and mezzanine debt is generally between three and seven years. However, there is no limit on the maturity or duration of any security in our portfolio. The debt that we invest in typically is not rated by any rating agency, but we believe that if such investments were rated, they would be below investment grade (rated lower than "Baa3" by Moody's or lower than "BBB-" by Standard & Poor's). We may invest without limit in debt of any rating, including 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 Ares' current investment platform, resources and existing relationships with financial sponsors, financial institutions, hedge funds and other investment firms to provide us with attractive investments. In addition to deal flow, the Ares investment platform assists our investment adviser in analyzing, structuring and monitoring investments. Ares' senior principals have worked together for many years and have substantial experience in investing in senior loans, high yield bonds, mezzanine debt and private equity. The Company has access to the Ares staff of approximately 54 investment professionals and to the 33 administrative professionals employed by Ares who provide assistance in accounting, legal, compliance and investor relations.

While our primary focus is to generate current income and capital appreciation through investments in first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt and, to a lesser extent, equity securities of private companies, we also may invest up to 30% of the portfolio in opportunistic investments. Such investments may include investments in high-yield bonds, debt and equity securities in collateralized debt obligation vehicles and distressed debt or equity securities of public companies. We expect that these public companies generally will have debt that are non-investment grade. As part of this 30% of the portfolio, we may also invest in debt of middle market companies located outside of the United States, which investments are not anticipated to be in excess of 10% of the portfolio at the time such investments are made.

About Ares

Ares is an independent Los Angeles based firm with approximately $10.8 billion of committed capital and over 100 employees as of March 31, 2006. Ares was founded in 1997 by a group of highly experienced investment professionals.

Ares specializes in originating and managing assets in both the leveraged finance and private equity markets. Ares' leveraged finance activities include the acquisition and management of senior loans, high yield bonds, mezzanine and special situation investments. Ares' private equity activities focus on providing flexible, junior capital to middle market companies. Ares has the ability to invest across a capital structure, from senior secured floating rate debt to common equity.

Ares is comprised of the following groups:

- **Capital Markets Group** . The Ares Capital Markets Group currently manages a variety of funds and investment vehicles that have approximately $6.8 billion of committed capital, focusing primarily on syndicated senior secured loans, high yield bonds, distressed debt, other liquid fixed income investments and other publicly traded debt securities.

- **Private Debt Group** . The Ares Private Debt Group manages the assets of Ares Capital. The Private Debt Group focuses primarily on non-syndicated first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt.

- **Private Equity Group** . The Ares Private Equity Group manages ACOF, which has approximately $2.8 billion of committed capital as of March 31, 2006. ACOF generally makes private equity investments in companies in amounts substantially larger than the private equity investments anticipated to be made by Ares Capital. The Private Equity Group generally focuses on control-oriented equity investments in under-capitalized companies or companies with capital structure issues.

Ares' senior principals have been working together as a group for many years and have an average of over 20 years of experience in leveraged finance, private equity, distressed debt, investment banking and capital markets. They are backed by a large team of highly-disciplined professionals. Ares' rigorous investment approach is based upon an intensive, independent financial analysis, with a focus on preservation of capital, diversification and active portfolio management. These fundamentals underlie Ares' investment strategy and have resulted in large pension funds, banks, insurance companies, endowments and high net worth individuals investing in Ares funds.

Ares Capital Management

Ares Capital Management, our investment adviser, is served by a dedicated origination and transaction development team of 14 investment professionals, including our President, Michael J. Arougheti, which team is augmented by Ares' additional investment professionals, primarily its 23 member Capital Markets Group. Ares Capital Management's investment committee has 5 members, including Mr. Arougheti and 4 founding members of Ares. In addition, Ares Capital Management leverages off of Ares' entire investment platform and benefits from Ares' investment professionals' significant capital markets, trading and research expertise developed through Ares industry analysts. Ares funds have made investments in over 1,000 companies in over 30 different industries and currently hold over 400 investments in over 30 different industries.

MARKET OPPORTUNITY

We believe the environment for investing in middle market companies is attractive for the following reasons:

- We believe that many senior lenders 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.

- We believe there is increased demand among private middle market companies for primary capital. Many middle market firms have faced increased difficulty raising debt in the capital markets, due to a continuing preference for larger size high yield bond issuances.

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

COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES

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

Existing investment platform

Ares currently manages approximately $10.8 billion of committed capital in the related asset classes of syndicated loans, high yield bonds, mezzanine debt and private equity. We believe Ares' current investment platform provides a competitive advantage in terms of access to origination and marketing activities and diligence for Ares Capital.

Seasoned management team

Antony Ressler, Bennett Rosenthal, John Kissick and David Sachs are all founding members of Ares who serve on Ares Capital Management's investment committee. These professionals have an average of over 20 years experience in leveraged finance, including substantial experience in investing in leveraged loans, high yield bonds, mezzanine debt, distressed debt and private equity securities. In addition, our President, Michael J. Arougheti also serves on the investment committee and leads a dedicated origination and transaction development team of 14 investment professionals (including Mr. Arougheti), which team is augmented by Ares' additional investment professionals, primarily its 23 member Capital Markets Group. As a result of Ares' extensive investment experience, Ares and its senior principals have developed a strong reputation in the capital markets. We believe that this experience affords Ares Capital a competitive advantage in identifying and investing in middle market companies with the potential to generate positive returns.

Experience and focus on middle market companies

Ares has historically focused on investments in middle market companies and we benefit from this experience. Our investment adviser uses Ares' extensive network of relationships with intermediaries 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 attract well-positioned prospective portfolio company investments. In particular, our investment adviser works closely with the Ares investment professionals who oversee a portfolio of investments in over 400 companies and provide access to an extensive network of relationships and special 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 investment approach that was developed over 14 years ago by several of its founders. Ares Capital Management's investment philosophy and portfolio construction involves an assessment of the overall macroeconomic environment, financial markets and company-specific research and analysis. Our 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, Ares Capital Management'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;
- Cash flows that are dependable and predictable;

- Management teams with demonstrated track records and economic incentives;
- Rates of return commensurate with the perceived risks; and
- Securities or investments that are structured with appropriate terms and covenants.

Extensive industry focus

We concentrate our investing activities in industries with a history of predictable and dependable cash flows and in which the Ares investment professionals historically have had extensive investment experience. Since its inception in 1997, Ares investment professionals have invested in over 1,000 companies in over 30 different industries. Ares' Capital Markets Group provides a large team of in-house analysts with significant expertise and relationships in industries in which we are likely to invest. Ares investment professionals have developed long-term relationships with management teams and management consultants in these industries, as well as substantial information concerning these industries and potential trends within these industries. The experience of Ares' investment professionals in investing across these industries throughout various stages of the economic cycle provides our investment adviser with access to ongoing market insights and favorable investment opportunities.

Flexible transaction structuring

We are flexible in structuring investments, the types of securities in which we invest and the terms associated with such investments. The principals of Ares have extensive experience in a wide variety of securities for leveraged companies with a diverse set of terms and conditions. This approach and experience should enable our investment adviser to identify attractive investment opportunities throughout the economic cycle and across a company's capital structure so that we can make investments consistent with our stated objectives.

OPERATING AND REGULATORY STRUCTURE

Our investment activities are managed by Ares Capital Management and supervised by our board of directors, a majority of whom are independent of Ares and its affiliates. Ares Capital Management is an investment adviser that is registered under the Advisers Act. Under our investment advisory and management agreement, we have agreed to pay Ares Capital Management an annual base management fee based on our total assets (other than cash and cash equivalents, but including assets purchased with borrowed funds), and an incentive fee based on our performance. See "Management—Investment Advisory and Management Agreement."

As a BDC, we are required to comply with certain regulatory requirements. For example, we would not generally be permitted to invest in any portfolio company in which Ares or any of its affiliates currently has an investment (although we may co-invest on a concurrent basis with funds managed by Ares, subject to compliance with existing regulatory guidance, applicable regulations and our allocation procedures). Some of these co-investments would only be permitted pursuant to an exemptive order from the SEC and we have currently determined not to pursue obtaining such an order.

Also, while we are permitted to finance investments using debt, our ability to use debt is limited in certain significant respects. We borrow funds to make additional investments. See "Regulation." We have elected to be treated for federal income tax purposes as a regulated investment company, or a RIC, under Subchapter M of the Code. See "Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations."

INVESTMENTS

We have created a diversified portfolio that includes first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt by investing a range of $10 million to $50 million of capital, on average, although the investment sizes may be more or less and are expected to grow with our capital availability. We also, to a lesser extent, make equity investments in private middle market companies. These investments are generally less than $10 million each (but may grow with our capital availability) and are usually made in conjunction with loans we make to these companies. 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 addition to originating investments, we may acquire investments in the secondary market.

Structurally, mezzanine debt usually ranks subordinate in priority of payment to senior loans and is often unsecured. However, mezzanine debt ranks senior to common and preferred equity in a borrowers' capital structure. Typically, mezzanine debt has elements of both debt and equity instruments, offering the fixed returns in the form of interest payments associated with senior loans, while providing lenders an opportunity to participate in the capital appreciation of a borrower, if any, through an equity interest. This equity interest typically takes the form of warrants. Due to its higher risk profile and often less restrictive covenants as compared to senior loans, mezzanine debt generally earns a higher return than senior secured debt. The warrants associated with mezzanine debt are typically detachable, which allows lenders to receive repayment of their principal on an agreed amortization schedule while retaining their equity interest in the borrower. Mezzanine debt also may include a "put" feature, which permits the holder to sell its equity interest back to the borrower at a price determined through an agreed formula.

In making an equity investment, in addition to considering the factors discussed below under "Investment Selection," we also consider the anticipated timing of a liquidity event, such as a public offering, sale of the company or redemption of our equity securities.

Our principal focus is investing in first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt and, to a lesser extent, equity capital, of middle market companies in a variety of industries. We generally target companies that generate positive cash flows. Ares has a staff of 16 investment professionals who specialize in specific industries. We generally seek to invest in companies from the industries in which Ares' investment professionals have direct expertise. The following is a representative list of the industries in which Ares has invested.

- Aerospace and Defense
- Airlines
- Broadcasting/Cable
- Cargo Transport
- Chemicals
- Consumer Products
- Containers/Packaging
- Education
- Energy
- Environmental Services
- Farming and Agriculture
- Financial

- Food and Beverage
- Gaming
- Health Care
- Homebuilding
- Lodging and Leisure
- Manufacturing
- Metals/Mining
- Paper and Forest Products
- Printing/Publishing
- Retail
- Restaurants
- Supermarket and Drug
- Technology
- Utilities
- Wireless and Wireline Telecom

However, we may invest in other industries if we are presented with attractive opportunities.

The industry and geographic information of the portfolio as of March 31, 2006, December 31, 2005 and December 31, 2004, were as follows:

	March 31,	December 31,	
	2006	2005	2004
Industry			
Health Care	13.0%	13.1%	10.1%
Containers/Packaging	8.1	12.0	11.9
Other Services	12.3	12.0	12.1
Consumer Products	13.0	11.2	20.5
Environmental Services	8.7	11.0	10.9
Restaurants	8.9	10.6	0.0
Manufacturing	7.1	9.5	18.9
Education	7.9	5.6	0.0
Financial	2.3	3.0	4.5
Printing/Publishing	4.8	2.8	0.0
Aerospace and Defense	2.4	2.7	0.0
Cargo Transport	1.7	2.1	0.0
Farming and Agriculture	1.4	1.8	0.0
Homebuilding	1.2	1.7	5.2
Broadcasting/Cable	3.4	0.9	0.0
Energy	0.0	0.0	5.9
Computers/Electronics	2.5	0.0	0.0
Beverages/Food/Tobacco	1.3	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Geographic Region			
West	36.1%	38.9%	32.1%
Mid-Atlantic	19.7	24.3	11.6
Midwest	11.0	12.3	19.3
Northeast	9.9	11.3	16.4
Southeast	18.5	10.2	12.8
International	4.8	3.0	7.8
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

As a result of regulatory restrictions, we are not permitted to invest in any portfolio company in which Ares or any affiliate currently has an investment (although we may co-invest on a concurrent basis with funds managed by Ares, subject to compliance with existing regulatory guidance, applicable regulations and our allocation procedures). Some of these co-investments would only be permitted pursuant to an exemptive order from the SEC and we have currently determined not to pursue obtaining such an order.

In addition to such investments, we may invest up to 30% of the portfolio in opportunistic investments in high-yield bonds, debt and equity securities in collateralized debt obligation vehicles, distressed debt or equity securities of public companies. We expect that these public companies generally will have debt that is non-investment grade. We also may invest in debt of middle market companies located outside of the United States, which investments are not anticipated to be in excess of 10% of the portfolio at the time such investments are made.

INVESTMENT SELECTION

Ares' investment philosophy was developed over the past 14 years and has remained consistent throughout a number of economic cycles. In managing the Company, Ares Capital Management

employs the same investment philosophy and portfolio management methodologies used by the investment professionals of Ares in Ares' private investment funds.

Ares Capital Management's investment philosophy and portfolio construction involves:

- an assessment of the overall macroeconomic environment and financial markets;
- company-specific research and analysis; and
- with respect to each individual company, an emphasis on capital preservation, low volatility and minimization of downside risk.

The foundation of Ares' investment philosophy is intensive credit investment analysis, a strict sales discipline based on both market technicals and fundamental value-oriented research and diversification strategy. Ares Capital Management follows a rigorous process based on:

- a comprehensive analysis of issuer creditworthiness, including a quantitative and qualitative assessment of the issuer's business;
- an evaluation of management;
- an analysis of business strategy and industry trends; and
- an in-depth examination of capital structure, financial results and projections.

Ares Capital Management seeks to identify those issuers exhibiting superior fundamental risk-reward profiles and strong defensible business franchises while focusing on relative value of the security across the industry as well as for the specific issuer.

Intensive due diligence

The process through which Ares Capital Management makes an investment decision involves extensive research into the target company, its industry, its growth prospects and its ability to withstand adverse conditions. If the senior investment professional responsible for the transaction determines that an investment opportunity should be pursued, Ares Capital Management will engage in an intensive due diligence process. Though each transaction will involve a somewhat different approach, the regular due diligence steps generally to be undertaken include:

- meeting with management to get an insider's view of the business, and to probe for potential weaknesses in business prospects;
- checking management backgrounds and references;
- performing a detailed review of historical financial performance and the quality of earnings;
- visiting headquarters and company operations and meeting top and middle level executives;
- contacting customers and vendors to assess both business prospects and standard practices;
- conducting a competitive analysis, and comparing the issuer to its main competitors on an operating, financial, market share and valuation basis;
- researching the industry for historic growth trends and future prospects (including Wall Street research, industry association literature and general news);
- assessing asset value and the ability of physical infrastructure and information systems to handle anticipated growth; and
- investigating legal risks and financial and accounting systems.

Selective investment process

Ares Capital Management employs Ares' credit recommendation process, which is focused on selectively narrowing investment opportunities through a process designed to identify the most attractive opportunities. Ares reviews and analyzes numerous investment opportunities on behalf of its funds to determine which investments should be consummated.

After an investment has been identified and diligence has been completed, a credit research and analysis report is prepared. This report will be reviewed by the senior investment professional in charge of the potential investment. If such senior investment professional is in favor of the potential investment, then it is presented to the investment committee. Members of the investment committee have an average of over 20 years of experience in the leveraged finance markets. The investment generally requires the substantial consensus of the investment committee. Additional due diligence with respect to any investment may be conducted on our behalf by attorneys and independent accountants prior to the closing of the investment, as well as other outside advisers, as appropriate.

Investment structure

Once we have determined that a prospective portfolio company is suitable for investment, we work with the management of that company and its other capital providers, including senior, junior, and equity capital providers, to structure an investment. We negotiate among these parties to agree on how our investment is expected to perform relative to the other capital in the portfolio company's capital structure.

Debt investments

We invest in portfolio companies primarily in the form of first and second lien senior loans and long-term mezzanine debt. The first and second lien senior loans generally have terms of three to ten years. We generally obtain security interests in the assets of our portfolio companies that will serve as collateral in support of the repayment of the first and second lien senior loans. This collateral may take the form of first or second priority liens on the assets of a portfolio company.

We structure our mezzanine investments primarily as unsecured, subordinated loans that provide for relatively high, fixed interest rates that provide us with significant current interest income. The mezzanine debt investments generally have terms of up to ten years. These loans typically have interest-only payments in the early years, with amortization of principal deferred to the later years of the mezzanine debt. In some cases, we may enter into loans that, by their terms, convert into equity or additional debt or defer payments of interest (or at least cash interest) for the first few years after our investment. Also, in some cases our mezzanine debt will be collateralized by a subordinated lien on some or all of the assets of the borrower.

In some cases our debt investments may provide for a portion of the interest payable to be payment-in-kind interest. To the extent interest is payment-in-kind, it will be payable through the increase of the principal amount of the loan by the amount of interest due on the then-outstanding aggregate principal amount of such loan.

In the case of our first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt, we tailor the terms of the investment to the facts and circumstances of the transaction and the prospective portfolio company, negotiating a structure that aims to protect our rights and manage our risk while creating incentives for the portfolio company to achieve its business plan and improve its profitability. For example, in addition to seeking a senior position in the capital structure of our portfolio companies, we will seek, where appropriate, to limit the downside potential of our investments by:

- requiring a total return on our investments (including both interest and potential equity appreciation) that compensates us for credit risk;

- incorporating "put" rights and call protection into the investment structure; and
- negotiating covenants in connection with our investments that afford our portfolio companies as much flexibility in managing their businesses as possible, consistent with preservation of our capital. Such restrictions may include affirmative and negative covenants, default penalties, lien protection, change of control provisions and board rights, including either observation or participation rights.

In general, Ares Capital Management includes financial covenants and terms that require an issuer to reduce leverage, thereby enhancing credit quality. These methods include: (i) maintenance leverage covenants requiring a decreasing ratio of debt to cash flow; (ii) maintenance cash flow covenants requiring an increasing ratio of cash flow to the sum of interest expense and capital expenditures; and (iii) debt incurrence prohibitions, limiting a company's ability to re-lever. In addition, limitations on asset sales and capital expenditures should prevent a company from changing the nature of its business or capitalization without consent.

Our debt investments may include equity features, such as warrants or options to buy a minority interest in the portfolio company. Warrants we receive with our debt may require only a nominal cost to exercise, and thus, as a portfolio company appreciates in value, we may achieve additional investment return from this equity interest. We may structure the warrants to provide provisions protecting our rights as a minority-interest holder, as well as puts, or rights to sell such securities back to the company, upon the occurrence of specified events. In many cases, we also obtain registration rights in connection with these equity interests, which may include demand and "piggyback" registration rights.

Equity investments

Our equity investments may consist of preferred equity that is expected to pay dividends on a current basis or preferred equity that does not pay current dividends. Preferred equity generally has a preference over common equity as to distributions on liquidation and dividends. In some cases, we may acquire common equity. In general, our equity investments are not control-oriented investments and in many cases we acquire equity securities as part of a group of private equity investors in which we are not the lead investor. With respect to preferred or common equity investments, these investments that have generally been less than $10 million each (but may grow with our capital availability) and are usually made in conjunction with loans we make these companies. In many cases, we will also obtain registration rights in connection with these equity interests, which may include demand and "piggyback" registration rights.

ONGOING RELATIONSHIPS WITH AND MONITORING OF PORTFOLIO COMPANIES

Ares Capital Management closely monitors each investment we make, maintains a regular dialogue with both the management team and other stakeholders and seeks specifically tailored financial reporting. In addition, senior investment professionals of Ares sometimes take board seats or obtain board observation rights. As of March 31, 2006, Ares Capital Management has board seats or board observation rights on more than 23% of the operating companies in our portfolio.

Post-investment, in addition to covenants and other contractual rights, Ares seeks to exert significant influence through board participation, when appropriate, and by actively working with management on strategic initiatives. Ares often introduces managers of companies in which they have invested to other portfolio companies to capitalize on complementary business activities and best practices.

In addition to various risk management and monitoring tools, we grade all loans on a scale of 1 to 4. This system is intended to reflect the performance of the borrower's business, the collateral coverage of the loans and other factors considered relevant.

Under this system, loans with a grade of 4 involve the least amount of risk in our portfolio. The borrower is performing above expectations and the trends and risk factors are generally favorable. Loans graded 3 involve a level of risk that is similar to the risk at the time of origination. The borrower is performing as expected and the risk factors are neutral to favorable. All new loans are initially graded 3. Loans graded 2 involve a borrower performing below expectations and indicates that the loan's risk has increased materially since origination. The borrower is generally out of compliance with debt covenants, however, loan payments are generally not more than 120 days past due. For loans graded 2, we expect to increase procedures to monitor the borrower and the fair value generally will be lowered. A loan grade of 1 indicates that the borrower is performing materially below expectations and that the loan risk has substantially increased since origination. Most or all of the debt covenants are out of compliance and payments are substantially delinquent. Loans graded 1 are not anticipated to be repaid in full. We believe that as of March 31, 2006, the weighted average investment grade of the debt in our portfolio was 3.1.

MANAGERIAL ASSISTANCE

As a BDC, we will offer, and must provide upon request, managerial assistance to our portfolio companies. This assistance could involve, among other things, monitoring the operations of our portfolio companies, participating in board and management meetings, consulting with and advising officers of portfolio companies and providing other organizational and financial guidance. We may receive fees for these services. Ares Administration provides such managerial assistance on our behalf to portfolio companies that request this assistance.

COMPETITION

Our primary competitors to provide financing to middle market companies include public and private funds, commercial and investment banks, commercial financing companies and private equity funds. Many of our competitors are substantially larger and have considerably greater financial, technical and marketing resources than we do. For example, some competitors may have access to funding sources that are not available to us. In addition, some of our competitors may have higher risk tolerances or different risk assessments, which could allow them to consider a wider variety of investments and establish more relationships than us. Furthermore, many of our competitors are not subject to the regulatory restrictions that the 1940 Act imposes on us as a BDC. We use the industry information of Ares' investment professionals to which we have access to assess investment risks and determine appropriate pricing for our investments in portfolio companies. In addition, we believe that the relationships of the members of Ares Capital Management's investment committees and of the senior principals of Ares, enable us to learn about, and compete effectively for, financing opportunities with attractive middle market companies in the industries in which we seek to invest. For additional information concerning the competitive risks we face, see "Risk Factors—Risks Relating to our Business—We operate in a highly competitive market for investment opportunities."

LEVERAGE

On November 3, 2004, through our wholly owned subsidiary, Ares Capital CP Funding LLC ("Ares Capital CP"), we entered into a revolving credit facility (the "CP Funding Facility") that, as amended, allows Ares Capital CP to issue up to $350.0 million of variable funding certificates ("VFC").

Under the CP Funding Facility, funds are loaned to Ares Capital CP by or through Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC at prevailing commercial paper rates, or if the commercial paper market is at

any time unavailable at prevailing LIBOR rates, plus, in each case, an applicable spread. The funds are used for the simultaneous purchase by Ares Capital CP from the Company of loan investments originated or otherwise acquired by the Company. Through this simultaneous purchase from the Company by Ares Capital CP with funds obtained by Ares Capital CP from the CP Funding Facility, the Company is able to obtain the benefits of the CP Funding Facility.

As part of the CP Funding Facility, we are subject to limitations as to how borrowed funds may be used including restrictions on geographic concentrations, sector concentrations, loan size, payment frequency and status, average life, collateral interests and investment ratings as well as regulatory restrictions on leverage which may affect the amount of funds that Ares Capital CP may obtain. There are also certain requirements relating to portfolio performance, including required minimum portfolio yield and limitations on delinquencies and charge-offs, violation of which could result in the early amortization of the CP Funding Facility and limit further advances under the CP Funding Facility and in some cases could be an event of default. Such limitations, requirements, and associated defined terms are as provided for in the documents governing the CP Funding Facility. The interest charged on the funds is based on the commercial paper rate plus 0.75% and payable quarterly. As of December 31, 2005, the commercial paper rate was 4.3223%. The CP Funding Facility expires on November 1, 2006 unless extended prior to such date with the consent of the lender. If the CP Funding Facility is not extended, any principal amounts then outstanding will be amortized over a 24 month period through a termination date of November 2, 2008. Under the terms of the CP Funding Facility, we are required to pay a 0.375% renewal fee on each of the two years following the closing date of the CP Funding Facility. Additionally, we are also required to pay a commitment fee (as described below) for any unused portion of the CP Funding Facility.

The interest rate payable on commercial paper funding is equal to the commercial paper rate plus 75 basis points and the commitment fee for unused portions of the credit facility ranges from 0.10% to 0.125%, depending on funding levels.

As of March 31, 2006, the principal amount outstanding under the CP Funding Facility was $109.2 million.

On December 28, 2005, we entered into the Revolving Credit Facility with the lenders party thereto and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Administrative Agent, together with various supporting documentation, including a guarantee and security agreement.

Under the Revolving Credit Facility, the lenders have agreed to extend credit to Ares Capital in an initial aggregate principal amount not exceeding $250 million at any one time outstanding. The Revolving Credit Facility provides also for issuing letters of credit. The Revolving Credit Facility is a five-year revolving facility (with a stated maturity date of December 28, 2010) and with certain exceptions is secured by substantially all of the assets in our portfolio (other than investments held by Ares Capital CP under the CP Funding Facility).

Subject to certain exceptions, the interest rate payable under the Revolving Credit Facility is 100 basis points over LIBOR. Under the Revolving Credit Facility, we have made certain representations and warranties and are required to comply with various covenants, reporting requirements and other customary requirements for similar revolving credit facilities, including, without limitation, covenants related to: (a) limitations on the incurrence of additional indebtedness and liens, (b) limitations on certain investments, (c) limitations on certain restricted payments, (d) maintaining a certain minimum stockholders' equity, (e) maintaining a ratio of total assets (less total liabilities) to total indebtedness, of Ares Capital and its subsidiaries, of not less than 2.0:1.0, (f) maintaining minimum liquidity, and (g) limitations on the creation or existence of agreements that prohibit liens on certain properties of Ares Capital and its subsidiaries.

In addition to the asset coverage ratio described above, borrowings under the Revolving Credit Facility (and the incurrence of certain other permitted debt) will be subject to compliance with a borrowing base that will apply different advance rates to different types of assets in our portfolio. The Revolving Credit Facility also includes an "accordion" feature that allows us to increase the size of the Revolving Credit Facility to a maximum of $500 million under certain circumstances. The Revolving Credit Facility also includes usual and customary events of default for senior secured revolving credit facilities of this nature.

We intend to continue borrowing under the Facilities in the future and we may increase the size of the Facilities or otherwise issue debt securities or other evidences of indebtedness in the future.

STAFFING

We do not currently have any employees and do not expect to have any employees. Services necessary for our business are provided by individuals who are employees of Ares Capital Management and Ares Administration, pursuant to the terms of the management agreement and the administration agreement. Each of our executive officers described under "Management" is an employee of Ares Administration and/or Ares Capital Management. Our day-to-day investment operations are managed by our investment adviser. Most of the services necessary for the origination and administration of our investment portfolio are provided by investment professionals employed by Ares Capital Management. Including Michael J. Arougheti, our President who also serves on Ares Capital Management's investment committee, Ares Capital Management has 15 investment professionals who focus on origination and transaction development and monitoring of our investments. See "Management—Investment Advisory and Management Agreement." In addition, we will reimburse Ares Administration for our allocable portion of expenses incurred by it in performing its obligations under the administration agreement, including rent and our allocable portion of the cost of our officers and their respective staffs. See "Management—Administration Agreement."

PROPERTIES

We do not own any real estate or other physical properties materially important to our operation. Our headquarters are currently located at 780 Third Avenue, 46th Floor, New York, New York, where we occupy our office space pursuant to our administration agreement with Ares Administration.

In January 2006, we entered into a new lease agreement to rent new office space directly from a third party. The lease begins on July 26, 2006 and expires on February 27, 2011. In addition, we have entered into a sublease with Ares Management LLC whereby Ares Management LLC will sublease approximately 25% of the new office space for a fixed rent equal to 25% of the basic annual rent payable by us under the new lease, plus certain additional costs and expenses.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Neither we nor Ares Capital Management are currently subject to any material legal proceedings.

In 2005, as part of an industry sweep, the SEC's Fort Worth District Office (the "District Office") conducted a limited scope examination of Ares Capital. As a result of this examination, we received a letter on October 5, 2005 in which the District Office—while noting that the fees we have already paid to our investment adviser do not appear to exceed those allowable by law—raised issues regarding the clarity of the language in our investment advisory and management agreement and certain aspects of our method of calculation of the capital gains portion of the incentive fee contained in that agreement.

We intended to use the cumulative method to calculate the capital gains portion of the incentive fee. However, the District Office has raised issues regarding the clarity of the language in our investment advisory and management agreement. In response our investment adviser has agreed that in calculating payments of the capital gains portion of the incentive fee we will use the method that results in the lowest incentive fee payment to the investment adviser until our next stockholder meeting scheduled for May 30, 2006, where we are seeking the vote of our stockholders to amend and restate our investment advisory and management agreement to make our method of using the cumulative calculation clear. We do not expect that the resolution of this inquiry will result in a material adverse effect on us or our stockholders. See "Investment Advisory and Management Agreement—Management Fee."

PORTFOLIO COMPANIES

Our investment adviser employs an investment rating system to categorize our investments. See "Business—Ongoing Relationships With and Monitoring of Portfolio Companies." We believe that as of March 31, 2006, the weighted average investment grade of the debt in our portfolio is 3.1. As of March 31, 2006, the weighted average yield of the debt and income producing equity securities in our portfolio was approximately 11.47% (computed as (a) the annual stated interest rate (or, in the case of equity securities, dividend rate) plus the annual amortization of loan, origination fees, original issue discount and market discount on accruing loans, debt and income producing equity securities) divided by (b) total loans, debt and income producing equity securities at value.

The following table describes each of the businesses included in our portfolio and reflects data as of March 31, 2006. We own less than 15% of the equity of, and do not control any of, the businesses included in this portfolio except for CICQ, LP. We offer to make significant managerial assistance to our portfolio companies. We may receive rights to observe the meetings of our portfolio companies' board of directors.

Name and Address of Portfolio Company	Nature of Business	Type of Investment	Interest(1)	Maturity	% of Class Held(2)	Fair Value
Aircast, Inc. 92 River Road Summit, NJ 07901	Manufacturer of orthopedic braces, supports and vascular systems	Senior secured loan Junior secured loan	7.60% (Libor + 2.75%/Q) 11.85% (Libor + 7.00%/Q)	12/7/2010 6/7/2011		1,235,429 1,000,000
American Renal Associates, Inc. 5 Cherry Hill Drive, Suite 120 Danvers, MA 01923	Dialysis provider	Senior secured loan Senior secured loan Senior secured loan Senior secured loan Senior secured loan Senior secured revolving loan	8.68% (Libor+ 4.00%/Q) 10.25% (Libor+ 2.50%/Q) 9.18% (Libor + 4.50%/Q) 10.50% (Libor+ 3.00%/Q) 11.68% (Libor + 7.00%/Q) NA	12/31/2010 12/31/2010 12/31/2011 12/31/2011 12/31/2011 12/31/2010		3,426,230 180,328 5,886,885 14,754 7,213,115 —(3)
Arrow Group Industries, Inc. 1680 Route 23 North Wayne, NJ 07470	Residential and outdoor shed manufacturer	Senior secured loan Senior secured loan	9.98% (Libor + 5.00%/Q) 14.48% (Libor + 9.50%/Q)	4/1/2010 10/1/2010		6,000,000 6,000,000
AWTP, LLC 2080 Lunt Avenue Elk Grove Village, Illinois 60007	Water treatment services	Junior secured loan	12.19% (Libor + 7.50%/M)	12/23/2012		13,600,000
Berkline/Benchcraft Holdings LLC One Berkline Drive Morristown, TN 37813	Furniture manufacturer and distributor	Junior secured loan Preferred stock Common unit warrants	14.53% (Libor + 10.00%/Q)	5/3/2012 3/26/2012	 4.27% 4.27 %	4,500,000 677,643 1,782,640
Canon Communications LLC 11444 W. Olympic Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90064	Print publications services	Junior secured loan	12.48% (Libor + 7.50%/Q)	11/30/2011		16,250,000
Capella Healthcare, Inc. Two Corporate Center, Suite 200 501 Corporate Center Drive Franklin, TN 37067	Acute care hospital operator	Junior secured loan	10.82% (Libor + 6.00%/Q)	11/30/2013		29,000,000
Captive Plastics, Inc. 251 Circle Drive North Piscataway, NJ 08854	Plastics container manufacturer	Junior secured loan	11.86% (Libor + 7.25%/M)	2/28/2012		16,000,000
CICQ, LP 500 Crescent Court, Suite 250 Dallas, TX 75201	Restaurant franchisor, owner and operator	Limited partnership interest			26.50%	66,287,100

Diversified Collection Services, Inc. 333 North Canyons Pkwy. Livermore, CA 94551	Collections services	Senior secured loan Senior secured loan Participating preferred stock	8.78% (Libor + 4.00%/S) 10.89% (Libor + 6.00%/Q)	2/4/2011 8/4/2011	 0.60%	6,300,000 8,500,000 295,270
Equinox SMU Partners LLC and SMU Acquisition Corp.	Medical school operator	Senior secured loan Senior secured loan Senior secured revolving loan Limited partnership interest	11.07% (Libor+ 6.00%/S) 11.07% (Libor + 6.00%/S) 12.25% (Base Rate + 5.00%/Q)	12/31/2010 12/31/2010 12/31/2010	 17.39%	10,500,000 3,000,000 8,482,342(4) 4,000,000
Event Rentals, Inc. 2310 E. Imperial Highway El Segundo, CA 90245	Party rental services	Senior secured aquisition loan Senior secured acquisition loan Senior secured loan Senior secured loan	9.91% (Libor+ 5.25%/S) 9.92% (Libor + 5.25%Q) 11.50% (Base Rate + 4.25%/D) 9.91% (Libor + 5.25%/S)	11/17/2011 11/17/2011 11/17/2011 11/17/2011		2,676,136(5) 2,897,727(5) 106,534 8,011,363
Extensity 66 Perimeter Center East Atlanta, GA 30346	Software manufacturer	Junior secured loan	11.99% (Libor + 7.25%/M)	9/14/2011		10,000,000
Farley's & Sathers Candy Company, Inc. P.O. Box 28 Round Lake, MN 56167	Branded candy manufacturer	Junior secured loan	9.50% (Base Rate + 1.75%/D)	3/24/2011		10,000,000
Foxe Basin CLO 2003, Ltd. c/o Maples Financial Limited P.O. Box 1093 GT Queensgate House 113 South Church Street George Town, Grand Cayman Cayman Islands	Collateralized debt obligation	Structured finance obligation mandatorily redeemable preference shares		12/15/2015		2,682,785
GCA Services, Inc. 300 Four Falls Corporate Center, Suite 650 West Conshohocken, PA 19428	Custodial services	Senior subordinated loan	12.00% cash, 3.00% PIK	1/31/2010		32,989,328
The GSI Group, Inc. c/o Charlesbank Capital Partners 600 Atlantic Avenue, 26th Floor Boston, MA 02210	Agricultural equipment manufacturer	Senior notes Common stock	12.00%	5/15/2013	 1.49%	10,000,000 750,000
HB&G Building Products P.O. Box 589 Troy, AL 36081	Synthetic and wood product manufacturer	Senior subordinated loan Common stock Common stock warrants	13.00% cash, 3.00% PIK	3/7/2011 3/7/2013	 2.40% 3.90 %	8,502,823 752,888 652,503
Hudson Straits CLO 2004, Ltd. c/o Maples Financial Limited P.O. Box 1093 GT Queensgate House 113 South Church Street George Town, Grand Cayman Cayman Islands	Collateralized debt obligation	Structured finance obligation mandatorily redeemable preference shares		10/15/2016		5,001,472
ILC Industries, Inc. 105 Wilbur Place Bohemia, NY 11716	Industrial products provider	Junior secured loan	10.73% (Libor + 5.75%/Q)	8/24/2012		6,500,000
Industrial Container Services, LLC 1540 Greenwood Avenue Montebello, CA 90640	Industrial container manufacturer, reconditioner and servicer	Senior secured loan Senior secured loan Senior secured revolving loan Senior secured revolving loan Senior secured revolving loan Common stock	11.43% (Libor + 6.50%/Q) 9.32% (Libor + 4.50%/M) 9.28% (Libor + 4.50%/M) 9.25% (Libor + 4.50%/M) 10.75% (Base Rate + 3.00%/Q)	9/30/2011 9/30/2011 9/30/2011 9/30/2011 9/30/2011	 11.41%	26,661,674 3,869,565(6) 1,315,652(7) 1,160,870(7) 232,174(7) 1,800,000
Kenan Advantage Group, Inc. 4895 Dressler Road, N.W. #100 Canton, OH 44718	Fuel transportation provider	Senior subordinated loan Senior secured loan Senior secured revolving loan Preferred stock Common stock	9.50% cash, 3.50% PIK 7.98% (Libor + 3.00%/Q) NA	12/16/2013 12/16/2011 12/16/2011	 1.15% 1.04 %	8,960,849 2,493,750 —(8) 1,098,400 30,575

Lakeland Finance, LLC 590 Peter Jefferson Parkway, Suite 30 Charlottesville, VA 22911	Private school operator	Senior secured note	11.50%	12/15/2012		33,000,000
Mactec, Inc. 1105 Sanctuary Parkway, Suite 300 Alpharetta, GA 30004	Engineering and environmental consulting services	Common stock			0.01%	—
Making Memories Wholesale, Inc. 1168 West 500 North Centerville, UT 84014	Scrapbooking branded products manufacturer	Senior secured loan Senior secured revolving loan Senior subordinated loan Preferred stock	8.98% (Libor + 4.00%/Q) NA 12.00% cash, 2.50% PIK 8.00%	3/31/2011 3/31/2011 5/6/2012	 9.64%	9,025,000 —(9) 10,050,000 1,320,000
Miller Heiman, Inc. 10509 Professional Circle, Suite 100 Reno, NV 89521	Sales consulting services	Senior secured loan Senior secured loan Senior secured revolving loan	8.58% (Libor + 3.75%/M) 9.23% (Libor + 4.25%/Q) NA	6/1/2010 6/1/2012 6/1/2010		4,389,474 4,048,182 —(10)

MINCS-Glace Bay, Ltd. c/o Maples Financial Limited P.O. Box 1093 GT Queensgate House 113 South Church Street George Town, Grand Cayman Cayman Islands	Collateralized debt obligation	Structured finance obligation floating rate third priority secured notes (BBB rated)	7.79% (Libor + 3.60%/Q)			9,500,000
MR Processing Holding Corp. 1544 Old Alabama Road Roswell, GA 30076	Bankruptcy and foreclosure processing services	Senior secured loan ($2,000,000 par due 2/2012) Senior subordinated loan ($20,000,000 par due 2/2013)	10.00% (Base Rate + 2.50%/Q) 14.00%	2/24/2012 2/24/2013		2,000,000 20,000,000
National Print Group, Inc. 2464 Amicola Highway Chattanooga, TN 37406	Printing management services	Senior secured loan Senior secured loan Senior secured loan Senior secured revolving loan Senior secured revolving loan Preferred stock	8.28% (Libor + 3.50%/B) 13.50% (Base Rate + 6.00%/Q) 10.00% (Base Rate + 2.50%/Q) 8.28% (Libor + 3.50%/B) 10.00% (Base Rate + 2.50%/D)	3/2/2012 8/2/2012 3/2/2012 3/2/2012 3/2/2012	 10.94%	10,682,609 5,021,739 730,435 813,451(11) 684,783(11) 2,000,000
OnCURE Medical Corp. 610 Newport Center Drive, Suite 650 Newport Beach, CA 92660	Radiation oncology care provider	Senior secured loan Senior secured loan Senior secured revolving loan Junior secured loan	8.50% (Libor + 3.50%/S 9.00% (Libor + 4.00%/S)) 8.88% (Libor + 4.00%/Q) 12.00% cash, 1.50% PIK	2/17/2012 2/17/2012 2/17/2012 8/17/2012		4,964,286 35,714 200,000(12) 15,023,125
Pappas Telecasting Incorporated 500 South Chinowth Road Visalia, CA 93277	Television broadcasting	Senior secured loan	14.25%(Libor + 4.00% cash, 5.00% PIK/Q)	2/28/2010		20,083,333
Patriot Media & Communications CNJ, LLC 35 Mason Street Greenwich, CT 06830	Cable services	Junior secured loan	9.69% (Libor + 5.00%/Q)	10/4/2013		5,000,000
PHNS, Inc. 15851 Dallas Parkway, Suite 925 Addison, TX 75001	Information technology and business process outsourcing	Senior subordinated loan	13.50% cash, 2.5% PIK	11/1/2011		16,000,000
Qualitor, Inc. 24800 Denso Drive, Suite 255 Southfield, MI 48034	Automotive aftermarket components supplier	Senior secured loan Junior secured loan	8.98% (Libor + 4.00%/Q) 11.98% (Libor + 7.00%/Q)	12/31/2011 6/30/2012		1,975,000 5,000,000
RedPrairie Corporation c/o Francisco Partners 2882 Sand Hill Road, Suite 280 Menlo Park, CA 94045	Software manufacturer	Junior secured loan	12.43% (Libor + 7.75%/B)	5/23/2010		8,500,000
Reflexite Corporation 120 Darling Drive Avon, CT 06001	Developer and manufacturer of high visibility reflective products	Senior subordinated loan Common stock	11.00% cash, 3.00% PIK	12/30/2011	 8.58%	10,381,612 6,098,473
Shoes for Crews, LLC 1400 Centerpark Blvd., Suite 310 West Palm Beach, FL 33401	Safety footwear and slip-related mats manufacturer	Senior secured loan Senior secured revolving loan	7.64% (Libor + 3.25%/S) NA	7/6/2010 7/6/2010		1,486,865 —(13)
Singer Sewing Comany c/o Kohlberg Management IV LLC 111 Radio Circle Mt. Kisco, NY 10549	Sewing machine manufacturer	Senior secured loan Senior secured revolving loan Senior secured revolving loan Senior secured revolving loan	10.74% (Libor + 6.00%/M) 8.72% (Libor + 4.00%/M) 9.25% (Base Rate + 1.75%/D) 8.75% (Libor + 4.00%/Q)	9/30/2010 9/30/2010 9/30/2010 9/30/2010		18,000,000 500,000(14) 84,122(14) 83,333(14)
Thermal Solutions LLC 94 Tide Mill Road Hampton, NH 03842	Thermal management and electronics packaging manufacturer	Senior secured loan Senior secured loan Senior subordinated loan Senior subordinated loan Preferred stock Common stock	8.78% (Libor + 4.00%/M) 8.28% (Libor + 3.50%/M) 11.50% cash, 2.75% PIK 11.50% cash, 2.50% PIK	3/27/2011 3/27/2011 3/27/2012 3/27/2013	 1.32% 1.06 %	3,250,000 1,750,000 3,062,766 2,500,000 539,000 11,000
Triad Laboratory	Laboratory services	Senior secured loan	8.23% (Libor + 3.25%/Q)	12/23/2011		2,992,500

Alliance, LLC 4380 Federal Drive, Suite 100 Greensboro, NC 27410		Senior subordinated loan	12.00% cash, 1.75% PIK	12/23/2012		9,757,421
Tumi Holdings, Inc. 1001 Durham Avenue South Plainfield, NJ 07080	Branded luggage designer, marketer and distributor	Senior secured loan Senior secured loan Senior subordinated loan	7.73% (Libor + 2.75%/Q) 8.23% (Libor + 3.25%/Q) 15.53% (Libor + 6.00% cash, 5.00% PIK/Q)	12/31/2012 12/31/2013 12/31/2014		2,500,000 5,000,000 13,173,216
UCG Paper Crafts, Inc. c/o GTCR Golden Rauner, LLC 6100 Sears Tower Chicago, IL 60606	Scrapbooking materials manufacturer	Senior secured loan Junior secured loan	8.08% (Libor + 3.25%/M) 12.33% (Libor + 7.50%/M)	2/17/2013 8/17/2013		2,000,000 13,000,000
United Site Services, Inc. 200 Friberg Parkway, Suite 4000 Mansfield, MA 01581	Portable restroom and site services	Senior secured loan Senior secured loan Senior secured loan Junior secured loan Common stock	7.81% (Libor + 3.00%/M) 7.82% (Libor + 3.00%/Q) 7.71% (Libor + 3.00%/Q) 12.63% (Libor + 7.75%/Q)	8/12/2011 8/12/2011 8/12/2011 6/30/2010	 1.80%	5,036,957 3,043,478 1,869,565 13,461,538 1,353,851

Universal Trailer Corporation 11590 Century Blvd., Suite 103 Cincinnati, OH 45246	Livestock and specialty trailer manufacturer	Common stock Common stock warrants		5/15/2012	9.13% 12.67 %	3,113,351 1,382,826
Varel Holdings, Inc. 1434 Patton Place, Suite 106 Carrollton, TX 75007	Drill bit manufacturer	Senior secured loan Senior secured loan Senior secured loan Senior secured revolving loan Preferred stock Common stock	8.58% (Libor + 4.00%/S) 8.67% (Libor + 4.00%/Q) 12.89% (Libor + 8.00%/Q) 8.27% (Libor + 3.50%/Q) 8.00%	12/1/2010 12/1/2010 12/1/2011 12/1/2010	 3.24% 2.53 %	6,643,750 1,978,336 3,333,333 250,000(15) 1,067,500 3,045
Wastequip, Inc. 25800 Science Park Drive, Suite 140 Beachwood, OH 44122	Waste management equipment manufacturer	Junior secured loan	10.98% (Libor + 6.00%/Q)	7/15/2012		15,000,000
WCA Waste Systems, Inc. One Riverway, Suite 1400 Houston, TX 77056	Waste management services	Junior secured loan	10.98% (Libor + 6.00%/Q)	10/28/2011		25,000,000
York Label Holdings, Inc. 405 Willow Springs Lane York, PA 17402	Consumer product labels manufacturer	Senior subordinated loan	12.00% cash, 3.00% PIK	9/17/2012		9,111,375
Total						$ 747,145,149

(1) All interest is payable in cash unless otherwise indicated. A majority of the variable rate loans to our portfolio companies bear interest at a rate that may determined by reference to either LIBOR or an alternate Base Rate (commonly based on the Federal Funds Rate or the Prime Rate), at the borrower's option, which reset daily (D), monthly (M), bi-monthly (B), quarterly (Q) or semi-annually (S). For each such loan, we have provided the current interest rate in effect as of March 31, 2006.

(2) Percentages shown for warrants or convertible preferred stock held represent the percentages of common stock we may own on a fully diluted basis, assuming we exercise our warrants or convert our preferred stock to common stock.

(3) Total commitment of $3,278,689 remains unfunded as of March 31, 2006.

(4) $6,517,658 of total commitment of $15,000,000 remains unfunded as of March 31, 2006.

(5) $1,244,318 of total commitment of $6,818,182 remains unfunded as of March 31, 2006.

(6) $773,912 of total commitment of $4,643,479 remains unfunded as of March 31, 2006.

(7) $5,071,394 or total commitment of $10,060,869 remains unfunded as of March 31, 2006.

(8) Total commitment of $1,612,903 remains unfunded as of March 31, 2006.

(9) Total commitment of $500,000 remains unfunded as of March 31, 2006.

(10) Total commitment of $1,057,705 remains unfunded as of March 31, 2006.

(11) $3,066,983 of total commitment of $4,565,217 remains unfunded as of March 31, 2006.

(12) $1,600,000 of total commitment of $1,800,000 remains unfunded as of March 31, 2006.

(13) Total commitment of $6,666,667 remains unfunded as of March 31, 2006.

(14) $2,999,212 of total commitment of $3,666,667 remains unfunded as of March 31, 2006.

(15) $3,083,333 of total commitment of $3,333,333 remains unfunded as of March 31, 2006.

Set forth below is a brief description of each portfolio company in which we have made an investment that represents greater than 5% of our total assets as of March 31, 2006.

CICQ, LP

CICQ, LP is a limited partnership that indirectly owns membership interests of a company specializing in the operation, ownership and franchising of a chain of fast-food restaurants in the United States and abroad. The restaurant chain, with over 4,000 locations worldwide, is one of the fastest growing restaurant chains.

MANAGEMENT

Our business and affairs are managed under the direction of our board of directors. The board of directors currently consists of five members, three of whom are not "interested persons" of Ares Capital as defined in Section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act. We refer to these individuals as our independent directors. Our board of directors elects our officers, who will serve at the discretion of the board of directors.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Under our charter, our directors are divided into three classes. Each class of directors will hold office for a three year term. However, the initial members of the three classes have initial terms of one, two and three years, respectively. At each annual meeting of our stockholders, the successors to the class of directors whose terms expire at such meeting will be elected to hold office for a term expiring at the annual meeting of stockholders held in the third year following the year of their election. Each director will hold office for the term to which he or she is elected and until his or her successor is duly elected and qualifies.

Directors

Information regarding the board of directors is as follows:

Name	Age	Position	Director Since	Expiration of Term
Interested Directors				
Robert L. Rosen	59	Director	2004	2006
Bennett Rosenthal	42	Chairman and Director	2004	2006
Independent Directors				
Douglas E. Coltharp	44	Director	2004	2008
Frank E. O'Bryan	72	Director	2005	2007
Eric B. Siegel	48	Director	2004	2007

The address for each director is c/o Ares Capital Corporation, 1999 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1900, Los Angeles, California, 90067.

Executive officers who are not directors

Information regarding our executive officers who are not directors is as follows:

Name	Age	Position
Michael J. Arougheti	33	President
Daniel F. Nguyen	34	Chief Financial Officer
Kevin A. Frankel	44	Chief Compliance Officer and Secretary
Merritt S. Hooper	44	Vice President of Investor Relations and Treasurer

The address for each executive officer is c/o Ares Capital Corporation, 1999 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1900, Los Angeles, California, 90067.

Biographical information

Directors

Our directors have been divided into two groups—interested directors and independent directors. Interested directors are interested persons as defined in the 1940 Act.

Independent directors

Douglas E. Coltharp , 44, has served as a director of the Company since 2004. He joined Saks Incorporated as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer in November 1996. Saks Incorporated (NYSE "SKS") is comprised of two business segments, Parisian, a specialty department store business, which operates department stores under various nameplates and Saks Fifth Avenue Enterprises, which operates Saks Fifth Avenue luxury department stores and Off 5th Saks Fifth Avenue Outlet. Prior to joining Saks Incorporated Mr. Coltharp spent ten years in the Corporate Finance Department of NationsBank (now known as Bank of America), most recently as Senior Vice President and head of the Southeast Corporate Finance Group headquartered in Atlanta. Mr. Coltharp holds a B.S. in Finance and Economics from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and an M.B.A. from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Mr. Coltharp also serves on the Boards of Directors of Stratus Technologies, Inc. and Under Armour, Inc.

Frank E. O'Bryan , 72, served as Chairman of the Board of WMC Mortgage Company from 1997 to 2003 and as a Vice Chairman until 2004 when the company was sold to General Electric Corporation. Mr. O'Bryan served as Vice Chairman of Shearson/American Express Mortgage Corp. and as a Director of Shearson American Express from 1981 to 1985 and prior to that served as a Director and senior executive of Shearson Hayden Store from 1979 to 1981. Mr. O'Bryan has been a Director of The First American Corporation since 1994. Since 2003 he has been a Director of Standard Pacific Corporation and a Director of Farmers & Merchants Bank since 2004. Mr. O'Bryan is a past member of the board of directors of both Damon Corporation and Grubb & Ellis.

Eric B. Siegel , 48, has served as a director of the Company since 2004. Since 1995, Mr. Siegel has been an independent business consultant providing advice through a limited liability company owned by Mr. Siegel, principally with respect to acquisition strategy and structuring, and the subsequent management of acquired entities. Mr. Siegel is a Director and Chairman of the Executive Committee of El Paso Electric Company, an NYSE publicly traded utility company. Mr. Siegel is a member of the Board of Directors of Kerzner International Limited, an NYSE publicly traded company that develops and operates destination casino resorts, luxury resort hotels and gaming properties worldwide. He is the Chairman of the Audit and Compensation Committees at Kerzner International. Mr. Siegel is a retired limited partner of Apollo Advisors, L.P. and Lion Advisors, L.P. Mr. Siegel is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Marlborough School, where he also serves as Finance Chair, a member of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Los Angeles Free Clinic and a board member of Reprise! Broadway's Best, a non-profit theatre organization. Mr. Siegel holds his Bachelor of Arts degree Summa Cum Laude and law degree Order of the Coif from the University of California at Los Angeles.

Interested directors

Robert L. Rosen , 59, has served as a director of the Company since 2004. Mr. Rosen is managing partner of RLR Capital Partners and RLR Focus Fund which invests principally in the securities of publicly traded North American companies. Mr. Rosen served from 2003 until 2005 as co-Managing Partner of Dolphin Domestic Fund II. In 1998, Mr. Rosen founded National Financial Partners ("NFP"), an independent distributor of financial services to high net worth individuals and

small to medium-sized corporations. He served as NFP's CEO from 1998 to 2000 and as its Chairman until January 2002. From 1987 to the present, Mr. Rosen has been CEO of RLR Partners, LLC, a private investment firm with interests in financial services, healthcare, media and multi-industry companies. From 1989 to 1993 Mr. Rosen was Chairman and CEO of Damon Corporation, a leading healthcare and laboratory testing company that was ultimately sold to Quest Diagnostics. From 1983 to 1987, Mr. Rosen was Vice Chairman of Maxxam Group. Prior to that, Mr. Rosen spent twelve years at Shearson American Express in positions in research, investment banking and senior management, and for two years was Assistant to Sanford Weill, the then Chairman and CEO of Shearson. Mr. Rosen holds an MBA in finance from NYU's Stern School. Ares Management is in discussions with Mr. Rosen regarding expanding his relationship with Ares Management. If those discussions bear fruit, Mr. Rosen may no longer be considered an "independent" director of Ares Capital. As a result, in an abundance of caution, we are treating Mr. Rosen as an "interested person" of the Company as defined in section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act.

Bennett Rosenthal , 42, has served as a Chairman and director of the Company since 2004. Mr. Rosenthal is a founding member of Ares and functions as a Senior Partner in the Private Equity Group. Since 1998, Mr. Rosenthal has also overseen all of Ares' mezzanine debt investments. Prior to joining Ares, Mr. Rosenthal was a Managing Director in the Global Leveraged Finance Group of Merrill Lynch and was responsible for originating, structuring and negotiating many leveraged loan and high yield financings. Mr. Rosenthal was also a senior member of Merrill Lynch's Leveraged Transaction Commitment Committee. Mr. Rosenthal is a member of the following Boards of Directors: AmeriQual Management, Inc. Douglas Dynamics, LLC, Maidenform Brands, Inc. and Marietta Corporation he is also the Co-Chairman of the Board of Directors of National Bedding Company LLC (Serta). Mr. Rosenthal graduated summa cum laude with a BS in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business where he also received his MBA with distinction. Bennett Rosenthal is an "interested person" of the Company as defined in section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act because he is on the investment committee of Ares Capital Management, the Company's investment adviser, and is a member of Ares Partners Management Company LLC, the parent of Ares Management, LLC, the managing member of the investment adviser.

Executive officers who are not directors

Michael J. Arougheti , 33, is President of the Company and joined Ares in May 2004 and became a member of Ares in January 2006. Prior to that time, Mr. Arougheti was employed by Royal Bank of Canada, where he was a Managing Partner of the Principal Finance Group of RBC Capital Partners and a member of the firm's Mezzanine Investment Committee. At RBC Capital Partners, Mr. Arougheti oversaw an investment team that originated, managed and monitored a diverse portfolio of middle market leveraged loans, senior and junior subordinated debt, preferred equity, and common stock and warrants on behalf of RBC and other third-party institutional investors. Mr. Arougheti joined Royal Bank of Canada in October 2001 from Indosuez Capital, where he was a Principal, responsible for originating, structuring and executing leveraged transactions across a broad range of products and asset classes. Mr. Arougheti sat on the firm's Investment Committee and was also active in the firm's private equity fund investment and fund of funds program. Prior to joining Indosuez in 1994, Mr. Arougheti worked at Kidder Peabody & Co., where he was a member of the firm's Mergers and Acquisitions Group advising clients in various industries, including natural resources, pharmaceuticals and consumer products. Mr. Arougheti has extensive experience in leveraged finance, including senior bank loans, mezzanine debt and private equity. He has worked on a range of transactions for companies in the consumer products, manufacturing, healthcare, retail and technology industries. Mr. Arougheti received a B.A. in Ethics, Politics and Economics, cum laude, from Yale University.

Daniel F. Nguyen , 34, has served as Chief Financial Officer of the Company since 2004 and joined Ares in August 2000. From 1996 to 2000, Mr. Nguyen was with Arthur Andersen LLP, where he was in charge of conducting business audits on various financial institutions, performing due diligence

investigation of potential mergers and acquisitions, and analyzing changes in accounting guidelines for derivatives. At Arthur Andersen LLP, Mr. Nguyen also focused on treasury risk management and on mortgage-backed securities and other types of structured financing. Mr. Nguyen graduated with a BS in Accounting from the University of Southern California's Leventhal School of Accounting and received an MBA in Global Business from Pepperdine University's Graziadio School of Business and Management. Mr. Nguyen also studied European business environment at Oxford University in England as part of the MBA curriculum. Mr. Nguyen is a CFA charterholder and a Certified Public Accountant.

Kevin A. Frankel , 44, has served as Chief Compliance Officer and Secretary of the Company since 2004. Mr. Frankel joined Ares as General Counsel in April 2003. Mr. Frankel became a Transaction Partner in Ares Private Equity Group in July 2005. From 2000 to 2002, Mr. Frankel was with RiverOne, Inc., a company providing supply chain management software and services, most recently as Senior Vice President—Business Development and General Counsel. From 1995 to 2000, Mr. Frankel was with Aurora National Life Assurance Company, most recently as Senior Vice President-Operations and General Counsel. From 1986 to 1995, Mr. Frankel was with the law firm of Irell & Manella, most recently as a partner, resident in its corporate securities group and specializing in mergers and acquisitions. Mr. Frankel received his JD in 1986 from the UCLA School of Law, where he was awarded a John M. Olin Fellowship in Law and Economics for academic achievement and graduated Order of the Coif. He received his BA from UCLA in 1983.

Merritt S. Hooper , 44, has served as Vice President of Investor Relations and Treasurer of the Company since 2004. Ms. Hooper is a founding investment professional of Ares and functions as the Director of Investor Relations and Marketing for all Ares funds as well as a senior investment analyst in the Capital Markets Group. Prior to Ares, Ms. Hooper was associated with Lion Advisors (an affiliate of Apollo Advisors) from 1991 to 1997 and worked as a senior credit analyst participating in both portfolio management and strategy. From 1987 until 1991, Ms. Hooper was with Columbia Savings and Loan, most recently as Vice President in the Investment Management Division. Ms. Hooper serves on the executive and investment boards of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. Ms. Hooper graduated from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) with a BA in Mathematics and received her MBA in Finance from UCLA's Anderson School of Management.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Information regarding the members of Ares Capital Management's investment committee is as follows:

Name	Age	Position
Bennett Rosenthal	42	Chairman and Director of the Company, Member of Investment Committee
Antony P. Ressler	45	Member of Investment Committee
John Kissick	64	Member of Investment Committee
David Sachs	46	Member of Investment Committee
Michael J. Arougheti	33	President of the Company, Member of Investment Committee

The address for each member of Ares Capital Management's investment committee is c/o Ares Capital Corporation, 1999 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1900, Los Angeles, California, 90067.

Members of Ares Capital Management's investment committee who are not directors or officers of the Company

John Kissick —Mr. Kissick is a founding member of Ares and functions as a Senior Partner in the Private Equity Group as well as a Senior Advisor to all funds in Ares' Capital Markets Group. Mr. Kissick also serves on the Investment Committee on all Ares funds. Prior to Ares, Mr. Kissick was a co-founder of Apollo Management, L.P. in 1990 and was a member of the original six-member management team. Together with Mr. Ressler, Mr. Kissick oversaw and led the capital markets activities of Apollo Management, L.P. and Lion Advisors. L.P. from 1990 until 2002, particularly focusing on high yield bonds, leveraged loans and other fixed income assets. Prior to 1990, Mr. Kissick served as a Senior Executive Vice President of Drexel Burnham Lambert, where he began in 1975, eventually heading its Corporate Finance Department. Mr. Kissick serves on the boards of the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, the Stanford University Graduate School of Business and the Fulfillment Fund which helps economically disadvantaged kids graduate from high school and college through mentoring and other programs. Mr. Kissick graduated from Yale University with a BA in Economics and with highest honors from the Stanford Business School with an MBA in Finance.

Antony P. Ressler —Mr. Ressler is a founding member of Ares and functions as a Senior Partner in the Ares Private Equity Group and as a Senior Advisor to the Ares Capital Markets Group. Mr. Ressler also serves on the Investment Committee on all Ares funds. Prior to Ares, Mr. Ressler was a co-founder of Apollo Management, L.P. in 1990 and was a member of the original six-member management team. Prior to 1990, Mr. Ressler served as a Senior Vice President in the High Yield Bond Department of Drexel Burnham Lambert Incorporated, with responsibility for the New Issue/Syndicate Desk. Mr. Ressler serves on several boards of directors including Allied Waste Industries, Inc., Samsonite Corporation and several private companies. Mr. Ressler also serves on the Boards of Directors of the Alliance for College Ready Public Schools and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, as well as the Board of Trustees of the Center for Early Education. Mr. Ressler is also one of the founding members of the Board of Directors of the Painted Turtle Camp, created to serve children dealing with chronic and life threatening illnesses by creating memorable, old-fashioned camping experiences. Mr. Ressler received his BSFS from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and received his MBA from Columbia University's Graduate School of Business.

David Sachs —Mr. Sachs is a founding member of Ares and functions as Co-Portfolio Manager of the Capital Markets Group and serves as an Investment Committee member on all Ares funds. From 1994 until 1997, Mr. Sachs was a principal of Onyx Partners, Inc. specializing in merchant banking and related capital raising activities in the mezzanine debt and private equity markets for middle market companies. From 1990 to 1994, Mr. Sachs was employed by Taylor & Co., an investment manager providing investment advisory and consulting services to members of the Bass Family of Fort Worth, Texas. From 1984 to 1990, Mr. Sachs was with Columbia Savings and Loan Association, most recently as Executive Vice President, responsible for all asset-liability management as well as running the Investment Management Department. Mr. Sachs serves on the Board of Directors of Terex Corporation. Mr. Sachs graduated from Northwestern University with a BS in Industrial Engineering and Management Science.

OTHER INVESTMENT PROFESSIONALS

Eric B. Beckman —Mr. Beckman joined Ares in 1998 and serves as a Managing Director in the Private Debt Group of Ares Management LLC. Before joining the Private Debt Group, Mr. Beckman served as a Senior Partner of the Private Equity Group of Ares Management LLC and a member of its Investment Committee, and as a member of the team responsible for Ares' mezzanine debt investments. Prior to joining Ares, Mr. Beckman was a member of the Leveraged Finance Group of Goldman, Sachs & Co. While at Goldman Sachs, he was involved in executing leveraged loan and high yield bond offerings, in raising and managing a dedicated fund providing subordinated bridge loans, and in certain restructuring advisory and distressed lending activities. Mr. Beckman is the Co-Chair of

the Los Angeles Advisory Board of the Posse Foundation and a member of the Steering Committee for the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center Sports Spectacular. Mr. Beckman graduated summa cum laude from Cornell University with a BA in Political Theory and Economics, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He received his JD from the Yale Law School where he was a senior editor of the Yale Law Journal.

R. Kipp deVeer —Mr. deVeer joined Ares in July 2004 and serves as a Managing Director in the Private Debt Group of Ares Management LLC. Before Ares Mr. deVeer was a partner at RBC Capital Partners in the Principal Finance Group, the firm's middle market financing and principal investment business. Mr. deVeer joined RBC in October 2001 from the merchant banking group of Indosuez Capital. At RBC Capital Partners and Indosuez Capital, Mr. deVeer was responsible for originating, structuring, and executing senior and subordinated debt investments in middle market buyouts and acquisitions. In addition, Mr. deVeer was responsible for investing the firm's capital in private equity transactions. Previously, Mr. deVeer worked at J.P. Morgan & Co., both in a Special Investment Fund of J.P. Morgan Investment Management, Inc. and the Investment Banking Division of J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. Mr. deVeer received a B.A. from Yale University and an M.B.A. from Stanford University's Graduate School of Business.

Mitch Goldstein —Mr. Goldstein joined Ares in May 2005 and serves as a Managing Director in the Private Debt Group of Ares Management LLC. Prior to joining Ares, Mr. Goldstein worked at Credit Suisse First Boston, where he was a Managing Director in the Financial Sponsors Group. At CSFB, Mr. Goldstein was responsible for providing investment banking services to private equity funds and hedge funds with a focus on M&A and restructurings and capital raisings, including high yield, bank debt, mezzanine debt, and IPOs. Mr. Goldstein joined CSFB in 2000 at the completion of its merger with Donaldson Lufkin and Jenrette. From 1998 to 2000, Mr. Goldstein was at Indosuez Capital, where he was a member of the Investment Committee and a Principal, responsible for originating, structuring and executing leveraged transactions across a broad range of products and asset classes. From 1993 to 1998, Mr. Goldstein worked at Bankers Trust, where he was responsible for financing and advising clients in various industries including media and telecommunications, consumer products, automotive and healthcare. Mr. Goldstein began his career as a CPA at Ernst & Young. Mr. Goldstein graduated summa cum laude from SUNY Binghamton with a BS in Accounting and received an MBA from Columbia Business School.

Michael L. Smith —Mr. Smith joined Ares in July 2004 and serves as a Managing Director in the Private Debt Group of Ares Management LLC. Before Ares, Mr. Smith was a partner at RBC Capital Partners in the Principal Finance Group, the firm's middle market financing and principal investment business. Mr. Smith joined RBC in October 2001 from Indosuez Capital, where he was a Vice President in the merchant banking group. At RBC Capital Partners and Indosuez Capital, Mr. Smith was responsible for originating and executing senior debt and mezzanine financings for middle market leveraged buyouts and recapitalizations. In addition, Mr. Smith was responsible for investing the firm's capital in private equity transactions. Previously, Mr. Smith worked at Kenter, Glastris & Company, a private equity investment firm specializing in leveraged management buyouts and at Salomon Brothers Inc., in their Capital Markets and Financial Institutions Group. Mr. Smith received a Masters in Management from the J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management and a B.S. in Business Administration, cum laude, from the University of Notre Dame.

COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Audit committee

The members of the audit committee are Messrs. Coltharp, O'Bryan and Siegel, each of whom is independent for purposes of the 1940 Act and The NASDAQ National Market corporate governance regulations. Mr. Coltharp serves as chairman of the audit committee. The audit committee is responsible for approving our independent accountants, reviewing with our independent accountants the plans and results of the audit engagement, approving professional services provided by our

independent accountants, reviewing the independence of our independent accountants and reviewing the adequacy of our internal accounting controls. The audit committee is also responsible for aiding our board of directors in fair value pricing debt and equity securities that are not publicly traded or for which current market values are not readily available. Where appropriate, the board of directors and audit committee may utilize the services of an independent valuation firm to help them determine the fair value of these securities.

Nominating committee

The members of the nominating committee are Messrs. Coltharp, O'Bryan and Siegel, each of whom is independent for purposes of the 1940 Act and The NASDAQ National Market corporate governance regulations. Mr. Siegel serves as chairman of the nominating committee. The nominating committee is responsible for selecting, researching and nominating directors for election by our stockholders, selecting nominees to fill vacancies on the board or a committee of the board, developing and recommending to the board a set of corporate governance principles and overseeing the evaluation of the board and our management.

The nomination committee may consider recommendations for nomination of directors from our stockholders. Nominations made by stockholders must be delivered to or mailed (setting forth the information required by our bylaws) and received at our principal executive offices not earlier than 150 days nor fewer than 120 days in advance of the date on which we first mailed our proxy materials for the previous year's annual meeting of stockholders; provided, however, that if the date of the annual meeting has changed by more than 30 days from the prior year, the nomination must be received not earlier than the 150th day prior to the date of such annual meeting nor later than the later of (i) 120th day prior to the date of such annual meeting or (ii) the 10th day following the day on which public announcement of such meeting date is first made.

Compensation committee

We do not have a compensation committee because our executive officers do not receive any direct compensation from us.

Meetings

Our board of directors held 14 formal meetings during 2005. The audit committee held six formal meetings during 2005, and the nominating committee held three formal meetings during 2005.

COMPENSATION TABLE

The following table shows information regarding the compensation of the directors for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2005. No compensation is paid to directors who are "interested persons."

Name	Aggregate compensation from Ares Capital(1)	Pension or retirement benefits accrued as part of our expenses(2)	Total compensation from Ares Capital paid to director
Independent directors			
Douglas E. Coltharp	$ 99,000	None	$ 99,000
Frank E. O'Bryan	$ 38,500	None	$ 38,500
Eric B. Siegel	$ 96,000	None	$ 96,000
Interested directors			
Robert L. Rosen	$ 70,500	None	$ 70,500
Bennett Rosenthal	None	None	None

(1) For a discussion of the independent directors' compensation, see below. In addition, please note that the consideration received by Mr. Rosen in 2005 was for his services prior to the time he was treated as an interested director.

(2) We do not have a profit sharing or retirement plan, and directors do not receive any pension or retirement benefits.

The independent directors receive an annual fee of $50,000. They also receive $2,500 plus reimbursement of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with attending each board meeting and will receive $1,000 plus reimbursement of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with attending each committee meeting. In addition, the Chairman of the Audit Committee receives an annual fee of $5,000 and each chairman of any other committee receives an annual fee of $2,000 for their additional services in these capacities. In addition, we purchase directors' and officers' liability insurance on behalf of our directors and officers. Independent directors have the option to receive their directors' fees paid in shares of our common stock issued at a price per share equal to the greater of net asset value or the market price at the time of payment.

PORTFOLIO MANAGERS

The following individuals function as portfolio managers primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Company's portfolio.

Name	Position	Length of Service with Ares (years)	Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years
Michael J. Arougheti	President of the Company, Member of Investment Committee	2	Mr. Arougheti joined Ares in May 2004 as President of the Company and became a member of Ares in January 2006. Prior to that time, Mr. Arougheti was employed by Royal Bank of Canada, where he was a Managing Partner of the Principal Finance Group of RBC Capital Partners and a member of the firm's Mezzanine Investment Committee. Mr. Arougheti joined Royal Bank of Canada in October 2001 from Indosuez Capital, where he was a Principal, responsible for originating, structuring and executing leveraged transactions across a broad range of products and asset classes. Prior to joining Indosuez in 1994, Mr. Arougheti worked at Kidder Peabody & Co., where he was a member of the firm's Mergers and Acquisitions Group.

Eric B. Beckman	Managing Director in Private Debt Group	8	Mr. Beckman joined Ares in 1998 and serves as a Managing Director in the Private Debt Group of Ares Management LLC. Before joining the Private Debt Group, Mr. Beckman served as a Senior Partner of the Private Equity Group of Ares Management LLC and a member of its Investment Committee, and as a member of the team responsible for Ares' mezzanine debt investments.
R. Kipp deVeer	Managing Director in Private Debt Group	2	Mr. deVeer joined Ares in July 2004 and serves as a Managing Director in the Private Debt Group of Ares Management LLC. Before Ares Mr. deVeer was a Partner at RBC Capital Partners in the Principal Finance Group, the firm's middle market financing and principal investment business. Mr. deVeer joined RBC in October 2001 from the merchant banking group of Indosuez Capital. From 1998 to 2001, Mr. deVeer was with Indosuez Capital, most recently as a Vice President.
Mitch Goldstein	Managing Director in Private Debt Group	1	Mr. Goldstein joined Ares in May 2005 and serves as a Managing Director in the Private Debt Group of Ares Management LLC. Prior to joining Ares, Mr. Goldstein worked at Credit Suisse First Boston, where he was a Managing Director in the Financial Sponsors Group. Mr. Goldstein joined CSFB in 2000 at the completion of its merger with Donaldson Lufkin and Jenrette.
Michael L. Smith	Managing Director in Private Debt Group	2	Mr. Smith joined Ares in July 2004 and serves as a Managing Director in the Private Debt Group of Ares Management LLC. Before Ares, Mr. Smith was a Partner at RBC Capital Partners in the Principal Finance Group, the firm's middle market financing and principal investment business. Mr. Smith joined RBC in October 2001 from Indosuez Capital, where he was a Vice President in the merchant banking group. From 1998 to 2001, Mr. Smith was with Indosuez Capital, most recently as a Vice President.

None of the individuals listed above is primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the portfolio of any other account.

Each of the individuals listed above is equally responsible for deal origination, execution and portfolio management. Mr. Arougheti, as our President, spends a greater amount of his time on corporate and administrative activities in his role as an officer.

As of March 31, 2006, each portfolio manager identified above is a full-time employee of Ares Capital Management LLC and receives a fixed salary for the services he provides to the Company. Each will also receive an annual amount that is equal to a fixed percentage of any incentive fee received by Ares Capital Management LLC from the Company for a fiscal year. None of the portfolio managers receives any direct compensation from the Company.

The following table sets forth the dollar range of common stock of the Company beneficially owned by each of the portfolio managers described above as of March 31, 2006.

Name	Aggregate Dollar Range of Common Stock Beneficially Owned by Manager(1)
Michael J. Arougheti	None
Eric Beckman	$100,001–$500,000
R. Kipp deVeer	None
Mitch Goldstein	None
Michael L. Smith	None

(1) Dollar ranges are as follows: none, $1-$10,000, $10,001-$50,000, $50,001-$100,000, $100,001-$500,000, $500,001-$1,000,000 or over $1,000,000.

INVESTMENT ADVISORY AND MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

Management services

Ares Capital Management serves as our investment adviser. Ares Capital Management is an investment adviser that is registered as an investment adviser under the Advisers Act. Subject to the overall supervision of our board of directors, the investment adviser manages the day-to-day operations of, and provides investment advisory and management services to, Ares Capital. Under the terms of an investment advisory and management agreement, Ares Capital Management:

- determines the composition of our portfolio, the nature and timing of the changes to our portfolio and the manner of implementing such changes;
- identifies, evaluates and negotiates the structure of the investments we make (including performing due diligence on our prospective portfolio companies);
- closes and monitors the investments we make; and
- determines the securities and other assets that we purchase, retain or sell.

Ares Capital Management's services under the investment advisory and management agreement are not exclusive, and it is free to furnish similar services to other entities.

Management fee

Pursuant to the investment advisory and management agreement, we pay Ares Capital Management a fee for investment advisory and management services consisting of two components—a base management fee and an incentive fee.

The base management fee is calculated at an annual rate of 1.5% of our total assets (other than cash or cash equivalents but including assets purchased with borrowed funds). The base management fee is payable quarterly in arrears. The base management fee is calculated based on the average value of our total assets (other than cash or cash equivalents but including assets purchased with borrowed funds) at the end of the two most recently completed calendar quarters, and appropriately adjusted for any share issuances or repurchases during the current calendar quarter. Base management fees for any partial month or quarter will be appropriately pro rated.

The incentive fee has the following two parts:

One part is calculated and payable quarterly in arrears based on our pre-incentive fee net investment income. Pre-incentive fee net investment income means interest income, dividend income and any other income (including any other fees (other than fees for providing managerial assistance), such as commitment, origination, structuring, diligence and consulting fees or other fees that we receive from portfolio companies) accrued during the calendar quarter, minus our operating expenses for the

quarter (including the base management fee, expenses payable under the administration agreement, and any interest expense and dividends paid on any outstanding preferred stock, but excluding the incentive fee). Pre-incentive fee net investment income includes, in the case of investments with a deferred interest feature (such as market discount, debt instruments with payment-in-kind interest, preferred stock with payment-in-kind dividends and zero coupon securities), accrued income that we have not yet received in cash. The investment adviser is not under any obligation to reimburse us for any part of the incentive fee it received that was based on accrued income that we never receive as a result of a default by an entity on the obligation that resulted in the accrual of such income.

Pre-incentive fee net investment income does not include any realized capital gains, realized capital losses or unrealized capital appreciation or depreciation. Because of the structure of the incentive fee, it is possible that we may pay an incentive fee in a quarter where we incur a loss. For example, if we receive pre-incentive fee net investment income in excess of the hurdle rate for a quarter, we will pay the applicable incentive fee even if we have incurred a loss in that quarter due to realized and unrealized capital losses.

Pre-incentive fee net investment income, expressed as a rate of return on the value of our net assets at the end of the immediately preceding calendar quarter, will be compared to a fixed "hurdle rate" of 2.00% per quarter. If market interest rates rise, we may be able to invest our funds in debt instruments that provide for a higher return, which would increase our pre-incentive fee net investment income and make it easier for our investment adviser to surpass the fixed hurdle rate and receive an incentive fee based on such net investment income. Our pre-incentive fee net investment income used to calculate this part of the incentive fee is also included in the amount of our total assets (other than cash and cash equivalents but including assets purchased with borrowed funds) used to calculate the 1.5% base management fee.

We will pay Ares Capital Management an incentive fee with respect to our pre-incentive fee net investment income in each calendar quarter as follows:

- no incentive fee in any calendar quarter in which our pre-incentive fee net investment income does not exceed the hurdle rate;
- 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 2.50% in any calendar quarter. We refer to this portion of our pre-incentive fee net investment income (which exceeds the hurdle rate but is less than 2.50%) as the "catch-up." The "catch-up" is meant to provide our investment adviser with 20% of our pre-incentive fee net investment income as if a hurdle rate did not apply if this net investment income exceeds 2.50% in any calendar quarter; and
- 20% of the amount of our pre-incentive fee net investment income, if any, that exceeds 2.50% in any calendar quarter.

These calculations will be appropriately pro rated for any period of less than three months and adjusted for any share issuances or repurchases during the current quarter.

The second part of the incentive fee is determined and payable in arrears as of the end of each calendar year (or upon termination of the investment advisory and management agreement, as of the termination date) and will equal 20.0% of our realized capital gains for the calendar year, if any, computed net of all realized capital losses and unrealized capital depreciation for such year.

In 2005, as part of an industry sweep, the District Office conducted a limited scope examination of Ares Capital. As a result of this examination, we received a letter on October 5, 2005 in which the District Office—while noting that the fees we have already paid to our investment adviser do not appear to exceed those allowable by law—raised issues regarding the clarity of the language in our investment advisory and management agreement and certain aspects of our method of calculation of the capital gains portion of the incentive fee contained in that agreement.

The District Office's letter noted that the Chief Accountant's Office of the Division of Investment Management has interpreted the language in Section 205(b)(3)(A) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 to generally allow two basic methodologies for calculating the capital gains portion of the incentive fee. The first, called the "period-to-period" method, bases the capital gains fee on realized capital gains net realized capital losses over a specified period (e.g., one year) reduced by the amount of unrealized depreciation over the same period. Under the period-to-period method, the calculation of unrealized depreciation of each portfolio security over the period must be based upon the market value at the end of the period compared to the market value at the beginning of the period. The second, called the "cumulative" method, bases the capital gains fee on the cumulative net realized capital gains less unrealized depreciation as of the date of the calculation, less the amount of fees paid to the adviser to date. Under the cumulative method, the calculation of unrealized depreciation of each portfolio security must be based upon the market value of each security as of the date of such calculation compared to its adjusted cost.

In response to the District Office's letter, we have revised our incentive fee calculation examples contained under the caption "Examples of Quarterly Incentive Fee Calculation" to show examples that demonstrate both the cumulative and the period-to-period methods. We intended to use the cumulative method to calculate the capital gains portion of the incentive fee. However, the District Office has raised issues regarding the clarity of the language of our investment advisory and management agreement. In response our investment adviser has agreed that in calculating payments of the capital gains portion of the incentive fee we will use the calculation that results in the lowest incentive fee payment to the investment adviser until our next stockholder meeting scheduled for May 30, 2006, where we are seeking the vote of our stockholders to amend and restate our investment advisory and management agreement to make our method of using the cumulative calculation clear. The use of the period-to-period method or the cumulative method could lead to different totals for the capital gains portion of the incentive fee, regardless of which method was used to calculate the incentive fee payable to our investment adviser. For example, the period to period method resulted in investment adviser fees payable for the capital gains portion of our incentive fee for fiscal 2005 that were approximately $13,000 less than the fees we would have paid under the cumulative method. We do not expect that the resolution of this inquiry will result in a material adverse effect on us or our stockholders.

Examples of Quarterly Incentive Fee Calculation

Example 1: Income Related Portion of Incentive Fee(1):

Assumptions

- Hurdle rate(2) = 2.00%
- Management fee(3) = 0.375%
- Other expenses (legal, accounting, custodian, transfer agent, etc.)(4) = 0.20%

Alternative 1

Additional Assumptions

- Investment income (including interest, dividends, fees, etc.) = 1.25%
- Pre-incentive fee net investment income
  (investment income - (management fee + other expenses)) = 0.675%

Pre-incentive fee net investment income does not exceed hurdle rate, therefore there is no incentive fee.

Alternative 2

Additional Assumptions

- Investment income (including interest, dividends, fees, etc.) = 2.70%
- Pre-incentive fee net investment income
  (investment income - (management fee + other expenses)) = 2.125%

Pre-incentive fee net investment income exceeds hurdle rate, therefore there is an incentive fee.

Incentive Fee	=	100% × "Catch-Up" + the greater of 0% **AND** (20% × (pre-incentive fee net investment income - 2.50%)
	=	(100% × (2.125% - 2.00%)) + 0%
	=	100% × 0.125%
	=	0.125%

Alternative 3

Additional Assumptions

- Investment income (including interest, dividends, fees, etc.) = 3.50%
- Pre-incentive fee net investment income
  (investment income - (management fee + other expenses)) = 2.925%

Pre-incentive fee net investment income exceeds hurdle rate, therefore there is an incentive fee.

Incentive Fee	=	100% × "Catch-Up" + the greater of 0% **AND** (20% × (pre-incentive fee net investment income - 2.50%)
	=	(100% × (2.50% - 2.00%)) + (20% × (2.925% - 2.50%))
	=	0.50% + (20% × 0.425%)
	=	0.50% + 0.085%

= 0.585%

(1) The hypothetical amount of pre-incentive fee net investment income shown is based on a percentage of total net assets. In addition, the example assumes that during the most recent four full calendar quarter period ending on or prior to the date the payment set forth in the example 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) is at least 8.0% of our net assets at the beginning of such period (as adjusted for any share issuances or repurchases).

(2) Represents 8.0% annualized hurdle rate.

(3) Represents 1.5% annualized management fee.

(4) Excludes offering expenses.

Example 2: Capital Gains Portion of Incentive Fee:

Alternative 1:

Assumptions

- Year 1: $20 million investment made in Company A ("Investment A"), and $30 million investment made in Company B ("Investment B")
    - Year 2: Investment A is sold for $50 million and fair market value ("FMV") of Investment B determined to be $32 million
    - Year 3: FMV of Investment B determined to be $25 million
    - Year 4: Investment B sold for $31 million

The capital gains portion of the incentive fee, if any, calculated under the cumulative method would be:

- Year 1: None
- Year 2: $6 million (20% multiplied by $30 million realized capital gains on sale of Investment A)
- Year 3: None; $5 million (20% multiplied by ($30 million realized cumulative capital gains less $5 million cumulative capital depreciation)) less $6 million (previous capital gains fee paid in Year 2)
- Year 4: $200,000; $6.2 million (20% multiplied by $31 million cumulative realized capital gains) less $6 million (capital gains fee paid in Year 2)

The capital gains portion of the incentive fee, if any, calculated under the period-to-period method would be:

- Year 1: None
- Year 2: $6 million (20% multiplied by $30 million realized capital gains on sale of Investment A)
- Year 3: None
- Year 4: $200,000 (20% multiplied by $1 million realized capital gains on sale of investment B)

Alternative 2

Assumptions

- Year 1: $20 million investment made in Company A ("Investment A"), $30 million investment made in Company B ("Investment B") and $25 million investment made in Company C ("Investment C")
    - Year 2: Investment A sold for $50 million, FMV of Investment B determined to be $25 million and FMV of Investment C determined to be $25 million
    - Year 3: FMV of Investment B determined to be $27 million and Investment C sold for $30 million
    - Year 4: FMV of Investment B determined to be $35 million
    - Year 5: Investment B sold for $20 million

The capital gains portion of the incentive fee, if any, calculated under the cumulative method would be:

- Year 1: None
- Year 2: $5 million (20% multiplied by $25 million ($30 million realized capital gains on Investment A less $5 million unrealized capital depreciation on Investment B))
- Year 3: $1.4 million ($6.4 million (20% multiplied by $32 million ($35 million cumulative realized capital gains less $3 million unrealized capital depreciation)) less $5 million (capital gains fee paid in Year 2))

- Year 4: None
- Year 5: None ($5 million (20% multiplied by $25 million (cumulative realized capital gains of $35 million less realized capital losses of $10 million)) less $6.4 million (cumulative capital gains fee paid in Year 2 and Year 3))

The capital gains portion of the incentive fee, if any, calculated under the period-to-period method would be:

- Year 1: None
- Year 2: $5 million (20% multiplied by $25 million ($30 million realized capital gains on Investment A less $5 million unrealized capital depreciation on Investment B))
- Year 3: $1 million (20% multiplied by $5 million realized capital gains on Investment C)
- Year 4: None
- Year 5: None

Payment of our expenses

All investment professionals of the investment adviser and its staff when and to the extent engaged in providing investment advisory and management services, and the compensation and routine overhead expenses of such personnel allocable to such services, are provided and paid for by Ares Capital Management. We bear all other costs and expenses of our operations and transactions, including those relating to: organization; calculation of our net asset value (including the cost and expenses of any independent valuation firm); expenses incurred by Ares Capital Management payable to third parties, including agents, consultants or other advisers, in monitoring our financial and legal affairs and in monitoring our investments and performing due diligence on our prospective portfolio companies; interest payable on debt, if any, incurred to finance our investments; offerings of our common stock and other securities; investment advisory and management fees; administration fees; fees payable to third parties, including agents, consultants or other advisers, relating to, or associated with, evaluating and making investments; transfer agent and custodial fees; registration fees; listing fees; taxes; independent directors' fees and expenses; costs of preparing and filing reports or other documents of the SEC; the costs of any reports, proxy statements or other notices to stockholders, including printing costs; to the extent we are covered by any joint insurance policies, our allocable portion of the insurance premiums for such policies; direct costs and expenses of administration, including auditor and legal costs; and all other expenses incurred by us or Ares Administration in connection with administering our business, such as our allocable portion of overhead under the administration agreement, including rent and our allocable portion of the salary and cost of our officers (including our chief compliance officer, our chief financial officer and our vice president of investor relations and treasurer) and their respective staffs (including travel).

Duration and termination

The investment advisory and management agreement was approved by our board of directors on September 8, 2004. Unless terminated earlier or amended and restated as described below, it will continue in effect until September 8, 2006. If the Company's stockholders approve the amended and restated investment advisory and management agreement at the stockholders' meeting scheduled for May 30, 2006, the investment advisory and management agreement will remain in full force and effect for one year from the date of such annual meeting, and will automatically renew for successive annual periods thereafter if approved annually by our board of directors or by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of our outstanding voting securities, including, in either case, approval by a majority of our directors who are not interested persons. The investment advisory and management agreement will automatically terminate in the event of its assignment. The investment advisory and management agreement may be terminated by either party without penalty upon 60 days' written notice to the other. See "Risk Factors—Risks Relating to our Business—We are dependent upon Ares Capital Management's key personnel for our future success and upon their access to Ares investment professionals."

Indemnification

The investment advisory and management agreement provides that, absent willful misfeasance, bad faith or gross negligence in the performance of its duties or by reason of the reckless disregard of its duties and obligations, Ares Capital Management, its members and their respective officers, managers, partners, agents, employees, controlling persons, members and any other person or entity affiliated with it are entitled to indemnification from Ares Capital for any damages, liabilities, costs and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees and amounts reasonably paid in settlement) arising from the rendering of Ares Capital Management's services under the investment advisory and management agreement or otherwise as an investment adviser of Ares Capital.

Organization of the investment adviser

Ares Capital Management LLC is a Delaware limited liability company that is registered as an investment adviser under the Advisers Act. The principal executive offices of Ares Capital Management are located at 1999 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1900, Los Angeles, California 90067.

Board approval of the Current Investment Advisory and Management Agreement

On September 8, 2004, our board of directors approved the investment advisory and management agreement. In its consideration of the investment advisory and management agreement, the board of directors reviewed a significant amount of information and considered a number of factors, including:

- our investment objectives;
- the nature, quality and extent of the advisory and other services to be provided to us by the investment adviser;
- the investment selection process to be employed by our investment adviser, including the flow of transaction opportunities resulting from Ares Capital Management's investment professionals' significant capital markets, trading and research expertise, the employment of Ares Capital Management's investment philosophy, diligence procedures, credit recommendation process, investment structuring, and ongoing relationships with and monitoring of portfolio companies;
- our investment adviser's personnel and their prior experience in connection with the types of investments proposed to be made by us, including such personnel's network of relationships with intermediaries focused on middle market companies;
- comparative data with respect to management fees and incentive fees of other business development companies with similar investment objectives;
- the other terms and conditions of the investment advisory and management agreement;
- the administrative services that the Administrator will provide to us at cost;
- our projected operating expenses and expense ratio compared to other business development companies with similar investment objectives;
- historical performance information concerning affiliates of our investment adviser that manage other accounts;
- our investment adviser's estimated pro forma profitability with respect to managing us;
- the limited potential for additional benefits to be derived by our investment adviser and its affiliates as a result of our relationship with our investment adviser;
- the limited potential for economies of scale in investment management associated with a larger capital base for investments in first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt and whether such limited economies of scale would benefit our stockholders; and
- the difficulty of obtaining similar services from other third party service providers or through an internally managed structure.

In addition, our board of directors considered the interests of senior management described in "Certain Relationships" and concluded that the judgment and performance of our senior management will not be impaired by those interests. Because we were newly formed at the time the board of directors approved the investment advisory contract, the board of directors was unable to consider our prior investment performance. Our investment adviser does not manage any other accounts.

Based on the information reviewed and the discussions, the board of directors (including a majority of the non-interested directors) concluded that the investment advisory and management fee rates are reasonable in relation to the services to be provided.

In view of the wide variety of factors that our board considered in connection with its evaluation of the investment advisory and management agreement, it is not practical to quantify, rank or otherwise assign relative weights to the specific factors it considered in reaching its decision. The board did not undertake to make any specific determination as to whether any particular factor, or any aspect of any particular factor, was favorable or unfavorable to the ultimate determination of the board. Rather, our board of directors based its approval on the totality of information presented to, and the investigation conducted by, it. In considering the factors discussed above, individual directors may have given different weights to different factors, though the following factors, among others, served as the basis for its determination: (i) that the fees to be paid under the investment advisory and management agreement are generally less than those payable under agreements of comparable business development companies described in the market data then available; (ii) that our expected expenses as a percentage of net assets attributable to common stock are generally less than most typically incurred by comparable business development companies described in the market data then available; (iii) that the substantive terms of the investment advisory management agreement, including the services to be provided, are generally the same as those of comparable business development companies described in the market data then available; (iv) that we have the ability to terminate the investment advisory and management agreement without penalty upon 60 days' written notice to the investment adviser; (v) that our investment adviser is served by a dedicated origination team of investment professionals, and that these investment professionals have historically focused on investments in middle market companies and have developed an investment process and an extensive network of relationships with intermediaries focused on middle market companies, which experience and relationships coincide with our investment objectives and generally equals or exceeds that of the management teams of other comparable business development companies described in the market data then available; (vi) that the Administrator will provide certain administrative services to us at cost; (vii) that the investment adviser's pro forma profitability with respect to managing us was generally less than the profitability of investment advisers managing comparable business development companies described in the market data then available, and that there is limited potential for additional benefits to be derived by our investment adviser and its affiliates as a result of our relationship with our investment adviser; (viii) that there is limited potential for economies of scale that would inure to the benefit of shareholders given the nature of our investment portfolio; and (ix) that it would be difficult to obtain similar services from other third party services providers or through an internally managed structure.

The investment advisory and management agreement was approved by our sole stockholder on September 8, 2004.

Board Consideration of the Approval of the Amended and Restated Investment Advisory and Management Agreement

At a meeting of the board of directors of the Company held on February 24, 2006, the board of directors, including all of the directors who are not "interested persons" of the Company as defined in the Investment Company Act, unanimously voted to approve the amended and restated investment advisory agreement. The independent directors had the opportunity to consult in executive session with counsel to the Company regarding the approval of such agreement. In reaching a decision to approve the amended and restated investment advisory agreement, the board of directors reviewed a significant amount of information and considered, among other things:

(i) the nature, extent and quality of the advisory and other services to be provided to the Company by the investment adviser;

(ii) the investment performance of the Company and the investment adviser;

(iii) the costs of the services to be provided by the investment adviser (including management fees, advisory fees and expense ratios) and the profits realized by the investment adviser;

(iv) the limited potential for economies of scale in investment management associated with a larger capital base for investments in first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt and whether such limited economies of scale would benefit our stockholders;

(v) our investment adviser's estimated pro forma profitability with respect to managing us;

(vi) the limited potential for additional benefits to be derived by our investment adviser and its affiliates as a result of our relationship with our investment adviser; and

(vii) various other matters.

In approving the Restated Agreement, the entire board of directors, including all of the directors who are not "interested persons" made the following conclusions:

- **Nature, Extent and Quality of Services.** The board of directors considered the nature, extent and quality of the investment selection process employed by our investment adviser, including the flow of transaction opportunities resulting from Ares Capital Management's investment professionals' significant capital markets, trading and research expertise, the employment of Ares Capital Management's investment philosophy, diligence procedures, credit recommendation process, investment structuring, and ongoing relationships with and monitoring of portfolio companies, in light of the investment objectives of the Company. The board of directors also considered our investment adviser's personnel and their prior experience in connection with the types of investments made by us, including such personnel's network of relationships with intermediaries focused on middle market companies. In addition, the board of directors considered the other terms and conditions of the investment advisory and management agreement. The board of directors concluded that the substantive terms of the investment advisory management agreement, including the services to be provided, are generally the same as those of comparable business development companies described in the available market data and that it would be difficult to obtain similar services from other third party services providers or through an internally managed structure. In addition, the board of directors considered the fact that we have the ability to terminate the investment advisory and management agreement without penalty upon 60 days' written notice to the investment adviser. The board of directors further concluded that our investment adviser is served by a dedicated origination team of investment professionals, and that these investment professionals have historically focused on investments in middle market companies and have developed an investment process and an extensive network of relationships with intermediaries focused on middle market companies, which experience and relationships coincide with our investment objectives and generally equal or exceed those of the management teams of other comparable business development companies described in the available market data.

- **Investment Performance.** The board of directors reviewed the long-term and short-term investment performance of the Company and the investment adviser, as well as comparative data with respect to the long-term and short-term investment performance of other business development companies and their externally managed investment advisers. The board of directors concluded that the investment adviser was delivering results consistent with the investment objectives of the Company and that the Company's

investment performance was generally above average when compared to comparable business development companies.

- **Costs of the Services Provided to the Company and the Profits Realized by the Investment Adviser.** The board of directors considered comparative data based on publicly available information with respect to services rendered and the advisory fees (including the management fees and incentive fees) of other business development companies with similar investment objectives, our projected operating expenses and expense ratio compared to other business development companies with similar investment objectives, as well as the administrative services that our administrator, Ares Technical Administration LLC, will provide to us at cost. Based upon its review, the board of directors concluded that the fees to be paid under the investment advisory and management agreement are generally less than those payable under agreements of comparable business development companies described in the available market data. In addition, the board of directors concluded that our expected expenses as a percentage of net assets attributable to common stock are generally equal to or less than those typically incurred by comparable business development companies described in the available market data.

- **Economies of Scale.** The board of directors considered information about the potential of stockholders to experience economies of scale as the Company grows in size. The board of directors considered that because there are no break points in the investment adviser's fees, any benefits resulting from the growth in the Company's assets where the Company's fixed costs did not increase proportionately, would not inure to the benefit of the stockholders.

- **Profitability of Investment Adviser.** The board of directors concluded that the investment adviser's pro forma profitability with respect to managing us was generally less than the profitability of investment advisers managing comparable business development companies described in the available market data.

- **Additional Benefits Derived by Investment Adviser.** The board of directors concluded that there is limited potential for additional benefits, such as soft dollar arrangements with brokers, to be derived by our investment adviser and its affiliates as a result of our relationship with our investment adviser.

- **Other Matters Considered.** In addition, our board of directors considered the interests of senior management described in "Certain Relationships and Related Transactions" and concluded that the judgment and performance of our senior management will not be impaired by those interests. Our investment adviser does not manage any other accounts.

Based on the information reviewed and the discussions, the board of directors (including a majority of the directors who are not "interested persons") concluded that the investment advisory and management fee rates are fair and reasonable in relation to the services to be provided and approved the Restated Agreement with the investment adviser as being in the best interests of the Company and the Company's stockholders. The board of directors then directed that the Restated Agreement be submitted to stockholders for approval with the board of director's recommendation that the stockholders of the Company vote to approve the Restated Agreement.

In view of the wide variety of factors that our board of directors considered in connection with its evaluation of the investment advisory and management agreement, it is not practical to quantify, rank or otherwise assign relative weights to the specific factors it considered in reaching its decision. The board of directors did not undertake to make any specific determination as to whether any particular factor, or any aspect of any particular factor, was favorable or unfavorable to the ultimate determination of the board of directors. Rather, our board of directors based its approval on the

totality of information presented to, and the investigation conducted by, it. In considering the factors discussed above, individual directors may have given different weights to different factors. Based on its review of the abovementioned factors and discussion of the Restated Agreement, the board of directors approved the Restated Agreement as being in the best interests of the Company and the Company's stockholders. The board of directors then directed that the Restated Agreement be submitted to stockholders for approval with the board of directors' recommendation that stockholders of the Company vote to approve the Restated Agreement.

Our stockholders are scheduled to vote on approval of the amended and restated investment advisory and management agreement on May 30, 2006.

ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENT

Pursuant to a separate administration agreement, Ares Administration furnishes us with office facilities, equipment and clerical, bookkeeping and record keeping services at such facilities. Under the administration agreement, Ares Administration also performs, or oversees the performance of, our required administrative services, which include, among other things, being responsible for the financial records which we are required to maintain and preparing reports to our stockholders and reports filed with the SEC. In addition, Ares Administration assists us in determining and publishing our net asset value, oversees the preparation and filing of our tax returns and the printing and dissemination of reports to our stockholders, and generally oversees the payment of our expenses and the performance of administrative and professional services rendered to us by others. Payments under the administration agreement will be equal to an amount based upon our allocable portion of Ares Administration's overhead in performing its obligations under the administration agreement, including rent and our allocable portion of the cost of our officers and their respective staffs. Under the administration agreement, Ares Administration also provides on our behalf managerial assistance to those portfolio companies to which we are required to provide such assistance. The administration agreement may be terminated by either party without penalty upon 60-days' written notice to the other party.

Indemnification

The administration agreement provides that, absent willful misfeasance, bad faith or negligence in the performance of its duties or by reason of the reckless disregard of its duties and obligations, Ares Administration, its members and their respective officers, managers, partners, agents, employees, controlling persons, members and any other person or entity affiliated with it are entitled to indemnification from Ares Capital for any damages, liabilities, costs and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees and amounts reasonably paid in settlement) arising from the rendering of Ares Administration's services under the administration agreement or otherwise as administrator for Ares Capital.

CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS

We are party to an investment advisory and management agreement with Ares Capital Management, whose sole member is Ares Management LLC, an entity in which our senior management and our chairman of the board has ownership and financial interests. Our senior management also serve as principals of other investment managers affiliated with Ares Management LLC that may in the future manage investment funds with investment objectives similar to ours. In addition, certain of our executive officers and directors and the members of the investment committee of our investment adviser, Ares Capital Management, serve or may serve as officers, directors or principals of entities that operate in the same or related line of business as we do or of investment funds managed by our affiliates. Accordingly, we may not be given the opportunity to participate in certain investments made by investment funds managed by advisers affiliated with Ares Management LLC. However, our investment adviser and other members of Ares intend to allocate investment opportunities in a fair and equitable manner that meet our investment objectives and strategies so that we are not disadvantaged in relation to any other client. See "Risk Factors—Risks Relating to our Business—There are significant potential conflicts of interest that could impact our investment returns."

Pursuant to the terms of the administration agreement, Ares Administration currently provides us with the office facilities and administrative services necessary to conduct our day-to-day operations. Ares Management LLC is the sole member of and controls Ares Administration. However, we have entered into a new lease and as of July 2006 will lease new office facilities directly from a third party. In addition, we have entered into a sublease with Ares Management LLC whereby Ares Management LLC will sublease approximately 25% of the new office space for a fixed rent equal to 25% of the basic annual rent payable by us under the new lease, plus certain additional costs and expenses.

We have also entered into a license agreement with Ares pursuant to which Ares has agreed to grant us a non-exclusive, royalty-free license to use the name "Ares." Under this agreement, we will have a right to use the Ares name, for so long as Ares Capital Management or one of its affiliates remains our investment adviser. Other than with respect to this limited license, we will have no legal right to the "Ares" name. This license agreement will remain in effect for so long as the investment advisory and management agreement with our investment adviser is in effect.

In connection with our initial public offering, our investment adviser paid to underwriters, on our behalf, an additional sales load of $2,475,000. This amount accrued interest at a variable rate that adjusts quarterly equal to the three-month LIBOR plus 2.00% per annum. We repaid this amount, plus accrued and unpaid interest, in February 2006.

CONTROL PERSONS AND PRINCIPAL STOCKHOLDERS

As of May 8, 2006, there were no persons that owned 25% or more of our outstanding voting securities, and no person would be deemed to control us, as such term is defined in the 1940 Act.

The following table sets forth, as of May 8, 2006, the number of shares of the Company's common stock beneficially owned by each of its current directors and executive officers, all directors and executive officers as a group, and certain beneficial owners, according to information furnished to the Company by such persons.

Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with the rules of the SEC and includes voting or investment power with respect to the securities. Ownership information for those persons who beneficially own 5% or more of our shares of common stock is based upon Schedule 13D, Schedule 13G or other filings by such persons with the SEC and other information obtained from such persons.

The address for each of the directors and executive officers is c/o Ares Capital Corporation, 1999 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1900, Los Angeles, California 90067.

Name of Beneficial Owner	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership	Percent of Class(1)
Beneficial Owners of more than 5%:		
Non-Management Beneficial Owners		
Deutsche Bank AG	1,957,816	5.14%
Entities affiliated with John S. Osterweis(2)	2,865,170	7.51%
Directors and Executive Officers:		
Interested Directors		
Robert L. Rosen	None	
Bennett Rosenthal	None(3)	
Independent Directors		
Douglas E. Coltharp	None	
Frank E. O'Bryan	None	
Eric B. Siegel	None	
Executive Officers		
Michael J. Arougheti	None(3)	
Daniel F. Nguyen	None	
Kevin A. Frankel	None	
Merritt S. Hooper	None	
All Directors and Executive Officers as a Group (9 persons)	None(3)	

(1) Based on shares of common stock outstanding as of May 8, 2006.

(2) Osterweis Capital Management, Inc. holds 1,042,755 of these shares and Osterweis Capital Management, LLC holds 1,822,395 of these shares. John S. Osterweis is the President of both Osterweis Capital Management, Inc. and Osterweis Capital Management, LLC and as a result may be deemed to be the indirect beneficial owner of the shares beneficially owned by Osterweis Capital Management, Inc. and Osterweis Capital Management, LLC.

(3) Ares Partners Management Company LLC and its wholly owned subsidiary, Ares Management, Inc., the manager of Ares Management LLC, are the only members of Ares Management LLC. Bennett Rosenthal and Michael Arougheti are members of Ares Partners Management Company LLC. Under applicable law, Messrs. Rosenthal and Arougheti and their

respective spouses may be deemed to be beneficial owners of 666,667 shares of our common stock owned of record by Ares Capital Management LLC by virtue of such status. Each of such persons disclaims beneficial ownership of all shares of Ares Capital common stock owned by Ares Capital Management LLC, except to the extent of their indirect pecuniary interest therein.

The following table sets forth the dollar range of our equity securities beneficially owned by each of our directors as of May 8, 2006. We are not part of a "family of investment companies," as that term is defined in the 1940 Act.

Name of Director	Dollar Range of Equity Securities in Ares Capital(1)(2)
Independent Directors(3)	
Douglas E. Coltharp	none
Frank E. O'Bryan	none
Eric B. Siegel	none
Interested Directors	
Robert L. Rosen	none
Bennett Rosenthal	none

(1) Dollar ranges are as follows: none, $1-$10,000, $10,001-$50,000, $50,001-$100,000, $100,001-$500,000, $50,001-$1,000,000 or over $1,000,000.

(2) Beneficial ownership determined in accordance with Rule 16a-1(a)(2) under the Exchange Act.

(3) As of May 8, 2006, to the best of the Company's knowledge, none of the independent directors or nominees, nor any of their immediate family members, had any interest in the Company, the Company's investment adviser, or any person or entity directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the Company.

DETERMINATION OF NET ASSET VALUE

The net asset value per share of our outstanding shares of common stock is determined quarterly by dividing the value of total assets minus liabilities by the total number of shares outstanding.

In calculating the value of our total assets, we value investments for which market quotations are readily available at such market quotations. Debt and equity securities that are not publicly traded or whose market price is not readily available are valued at fair value as determined in good faith by our board of directors. As a general rule, loans or debt in our portfolio generally correspond to cost but are subject to fair value write-downs when the asset is considered impaired. With respect to private equity securities, each investment is valued using comparisons of financial ratios of the portfolio companies that issued such private equity securities to peer companies that are public. The value is then discounted to reflect the illiquid nature of the investment, as well as our minority, non-control position. When an external event such as a purchase transaction, public offering or subsequent equity sale occurs, we use the pricing indicated by the external event to corroborate our private equity valuation. Because there is not a readily available market value for most of the investments in our portfolio, we value substantially all of our portfolio investments at fair value as determined in good faith by our board under a valuation policy and a consistently applied valuation process. Due to the inherent uncertainty of determining the fair value of investments that do not have a readily available market value, the fair value of our investments may differ significantly from the values that would have been used had a ready market existed for such investments, and the differences could be material.

With respect to investments for which market quotations are not readily available, our board of directors undertakes a multi-step valuation process each quarter, as described below:

- Our quarterly valuation process begins with each portfolio company or investment being initially valued by the investment professionals responsible for the portfolio investment.
- Preliminary valuation conclusions will then be documented and discussed with our senior management.
- The audit committee of our board of directors will review these preliminary valuations. Where appropriate, the committee may utilize an independent valuation firm selected by the board of directors.
- The board of directors discusses valuations and determines the fair value of each investment in our portfolio in good faith based on the input of our investment adviser and audit committee and, where appropriate, an independent valuation firm.

The types of factors that we may take into account in fair value pricing our investments include, as relevant, the nature and realizable value of any collateral, the portfolio company's ability to make payments and its earnings and discounted cash flow, the markets in which the portfolio company does business, comparison to publicly traded securities and other relevant factors.

Determination of fair values involves subjective judgments and estimates not susceptible to substantiation by auditing procedures. Accordingly, under current auditing standards, the notes to our financial statements will refer to the uncertainty with respect to the possible effect of such valuations, and any change in such valuations, on our financial statements.

DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT PLAN

We have adopted a dividend reinvestment plan that provides for reinvestment of our distributions on behalf of our stockholders, unless a stockholder elects to receive cash as provided below. As a result, if our board of directors authorizes, and we declare, a cash dividend, then our stockholders who have not "opted out" of our dividend reinvestment plan will have their cash dividends automatically reinvested in additional shares of our common stock, rather than receiving the cash dividends.

No action is required on the part of a registered stockholder to have their cash dividend reinvested in shares of our common stock. A registered stockholder may elect to receive an entire dividend in cash by notifying Computershare Trust Company, Inc., the plan administrator and an affiliate of our transfer agent and registrar, in writing so that such notice is received by the plan administrator no later than the record date for dividends to stockholders. The plan administrator will set up an account for shares acquired through the plan for each stockholder who has not elected to receive dividends in cash and hold such shares in non-certificated form. Upon request by a stockholder participating in the plan, received in writing no later than 10 days prior to the record date, the plan administrator will, instead of crediting shares to the participant's account, issue a certificate registered in the participant's name for the number of whole shares of our common stock and a check for any fractional share.

Those stockholders whose shares are held by a broker or other financial intermediary may receive dividends in cash by notifying their broker or other financial intermediary of their election.

We intend to use primarily newly issued shares to implement the plan, whether our shares are trading at a premium or at a discount to net asset value. However, we reserve the right to purchase shares in the open market in connection with our obligations under the plan. The number of shares to be issued to a stockholder is determined by dividing the total dollar amount of the dividend payable to such stockholder by the market price per share of our common stock at the close of regular trading on The NASDAQ National Market on the valuation date for such dividend. Market price per share on that date will be the closing price for such shares on The NASDAQ National Market or, if no sale is reported for such day, at the average of their reported bid and asked prices. The number of shares of our common stock to be outstanding after giving effect to payment of the dividend cannot be established until the value per share at which additional shares will be issued has been determined and elections of our stockholders have been tabulated.

There are no brokerage charges or other charges to stockholders who participate in the plan. The plan administrator's fees under the plan are paid by us. If a participant elects by written notice to the plan administrator 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 $15 transaction fee plus a $0.12 per share brokerage commission from the proceeds.

Stockholders who receive dividends in the form of stock are subject to the same federal, state and local tax consequences as are stockholders who elect to receive their dividends in cash. A stockholder's basis for determining gain or loss upon the sale of stock received in a dividend from us will be equal to the total dollar amount of the dividend payable to the stockholder. Any stock received in a dividend will have a new holding period for tax purposes commencing on the day following the day on which the shares are credited to the U.S. stockholder's account.

Participants may terminate their accounts under the plan by notifying the plan administrator via its website at *www.computershare.com* , by filling out the transaction request form located at bottom of their statement and sending it to the plan administrator at 2 N. LaSalle Street, Chicago, IL 60602 or by calling the plan administrator's hotline at 1-877-292-9685.

The plan may be terminated by us upon notice in writing mailed to each participant at least 30 days prior to any record date for the payment of any dividend by us. All correspondence concerning the plan should be directed to the plan administrator by mail at 2 N. LaSalle Street, Chicago, IL 60602 or by telephone at (312) 588-4993.

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 us and to an investment in our shares. This summary does not purport to be a complete description of the income tax considerations applicable to such an investment. For example, we have not described tax consequences that we assume to be generally known by investors or certain considerations that may be relevant to certain types of holders subject to special treatment under U.S. federal income tax laws, including stockholders subject to the alternative minimum tax, tax-exempt organizations, insurance companies, dealers in securities, pension plans and trusts, and financial institutions. This summary assumes that investors hold our common stock as capital assets (within the meaning of the Code). The discussion is based upon the Code, Treasury regulations, and administrative and judicial interpretations, each as of the date of this prospectus and all of which are subject to change, possibly retroactively, which could affect the continuing validity of this discussion. We have not sought and will not seek any ruling from the Internal Revenue Service regarding the offerings pursuant to this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement. This summary does not discuss any aspects of U.S. estate or gift tax or foreign, state or local tax. It 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.

A "U.S. stockholder" is a beneficial owner of shares of our common stock that is for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

- a citizen or individual resident of the United States;
- 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 any state thereof or the District of Columbia; or
- a trust or an estate, the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source; or
- a trust with respect to which a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over its administration and one or more U.S. stockholders have the authority to control all of its substantial decisions.

A "Non-U.S. stockholder" is a beneficial owner of shares of our common stock that is not a U.S. stockholder.

If a partnership (including an entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holds shares of our common stock, the tax treatment of a partner in the partnership will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. A prospective stockholder that is a partnership holding shares of our common stock or a partner of such a partnership should consult his, her or its tax advisers with respect to the purchase, ownership and disposition of shares of our common stock.

Tax matters are very complicated and the tax consequences to an investor of an investment in our shares will depend on the facts of his, her or its particular situation. We encourage investors to consult their own tax advisers regarding the specific consequences of such an investment, including tax reporting requirements, the applicability of federal, state, local and foreign tax laws, eligibility for the benefits of any applicable tax treaty and the effect of any possible changes in the tax laws.

ELECTION TO BE TAXED AS A RIC

As a BDC, we have elected to be treated as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code. As a RIC, we generally will not pay corporate-level federal income taxes on any ordinary income or capital gains that we distribute to our stockholders as dividends. To qualify as a RIC, we must, among other

things, meet certain source-of-income and asset diversification requirements (as described below). In addition, we must distribute to our stockholders, for each taxable year, an amount equal to at least 90% of our "investment company taxable income," which is generally our ordinary income plus the excess of realized net short-term capital gains over realized net long-term capital losses, reduced by deductible expenses (the "Annual Distribution Requirement"). See "Risk Factors—We will be subject to corporate-level income tax if we are unable to qualify as a RIC."

TAXATION AS A RIC

If we:

- qualify as a RIC; and
- satisfy the Annual Distribution Requirement;

then we will not be subject to federal income tax on the portion of our investment company taxable income and net capital gain (*i.e.* , net long-term capital gains in excess of net short-term capital losses) we distribute to stockholders. We will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at the regular corporate rates on any income or capital gain not distributed (or deemed distributed) to our stockholders.

We will be subject to a 4% nondeductible federal excise tax on certain undistributed income of RICs unless we distribute in a timely manner an amount at least equal to the sum of (1) 98% of our ordinary income for each calendar year, (2) 98% of our capital gain net income for the one-year period ending October 31 in that calendar year and (3) any income realized, but not distributed, in preceding years (the "Excise Tax Avoidance Requirement").

To qualify as a RIC for federal income tax purposes, we must, among other things:

- qualify to be treated as a BDC under the 1940 Act at all times during each taxable year;
- derive in each taxable year at least 90% of our gross income from dividends, interest, payments with respect to certain securities loans, gains from the sale of stock or other securities, or other income derived with respect to our business of investing in such stock or securities (the "90% Income Test"); and
- diversify our holdings so that at the end of each quarter of the taxable year:
    - at least 50% of the value of our assets consists of cash, cash equivalents, U.S. Government securities, securities of other RICs, and other securities if such other securities of any one issuer do not represent more than 5% of the value of our assets or more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of the issuer; and
    - no more than 25% of the value of our assets is invested in the securities, other than U.S. Government securities or securities of other RICs, of one issuer or of two or more issuers that are controlled, as determined under applicable tax rules, by us and that are engaged in the same or similar or related trades or businesses (the "Diversification Tests").

We may be required to recognize taxable income in circumstances in which we do not receive cash. For example, if we hold debt obligations that are treated under applicable tax rules as having original issue discount (such as debt instruments with payment-in-kind interest or, in certain cases, increasing interest rates or issued with warrants), we must include in income each year a portion of the original issue discount that accrues over the life of the obligation, regardless of whether cash representing such income is received by us in the same taxable year. Because any original issue discount accrued will be included in our investment company taxable income for the year of accrual, we may be required to make a distribution to our stockholders in order to satisfy the Annual Distribution Requirement, even though we will not have received any corresponding cash amount.

In addition, certain of our investment practices may be subject to special and complex U.S. federal income tax provisions that may, among other things, (i) disallow, suspend or otherwise limit the allowance of certain losses or deductions, (ii) convert lower taxed long-term capital gain into higher taxed short-term capital gain or ordinary income, (iii) convert an ordinary loss or a deduction into a capital loss (the deductibility of which is more limited), (iv) adversely affect the time as to when a purchase or sale of stock or securities is deemed to occur and (v) adversely alter the characterization of certain complex financial transactions. We will monitor our transactions and may make certain tax elections in order to mitigate the effect of these provisions.

Gain or loss realized by us from warrants acquired by us as well as any loss attributable to the lapse of such warrants generally will be treated as capital gain or loss. Such gain or loss generally will be long-term or short-term, depending on how long we held a particular warrant.

Our investment in non-U.S. securities may be subject to non-U.S. withholding taxes. In that case, our yield on those securities would be decreased. Stockholders will generally not be entitled to claim a credit or deduction with respect to non-U.S. taxes paid by us.

If we purchase shares in a "passive foreign investment company" (a "PFIC"), we may be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a portion of any "excess distribution" or gain from the disposition of such shares even if such income is distributed as a taxable dividend by us to our stockholders. Additional charges in the nature of interest may be imposed on us in respect of deferred taxes arising from such distributions or gains. If we invest in a PFIC and elect to treat the PFIC as a "qualified electing fund" under the Code (a "QEF"), in lieu of the foregoing requirements, we will be required to include in income each year a portion of the ordinary earnings and net capital gain of the QEF, even if such income is not distributed to us. Alternatively, we can elect to mark-to-market at the end of each taxable year our shares in a PFIC; in this case, we will recognize as ordinary income any increase in the value of such shares, and as ordinary loss any decrease in such value to the extent it does not exceed prior increases included in income. Under either election, we may be required to recognize in a year income in excess of our distributions from PFICs and our proceeds from dispositions of PFIC stock during that year, and such income will nevertheless be subject to the Annual Distribution Requirement and will be taken into account for purposes of the 4% excise tax. See "Taxation as a RIC" above.

Under Section 988 of the Code, gains or losses attributable to fluctuations in exchange rates between the time we accrue income, expenses or other liabilities denominated in a foreign currency and the time we actually collect such income or pay such expenses or liabilities are generally treated as ordinary income or loss. Similarly, gains or losses on foreign currency forward contracts and the disposition of debt denominated in a foreign currency, to the extent attributable to fluctuations in exchange rates between the acquisition and disposition dates, are also treated as ordinary income or loss.

If we borrow money, we may be prevented by loan covenants from declaring and paying dividends in certain circumstances. Limits on our payment of dividends may prevent us from meeting the Annual Distribution Requirement, and may, therefore, jeopardize our qualification for taxation as a RIC, or subject us to the 4% excise tax.

We are authorized to borrow funds and to sell assets in order to satisfy distribution requirements. However, under the 1940 Act, we are not permitted to make distributions to our stockholders while our debt obligations and senior securities are outstanding unless certain "asset coverage" tests are met. See "Regulation—Indebtedness and Senior Securities." Moreover, our ability to dispose of assets to meet our distribution requirements may be limited by (1) the illiquid nature of our portfolio and (2) other requirements relating to our status as a RIC, including the Diversification Tests. If we dispose of assets to meet the Annual Distribution Requirement, the Diversification Test, or the Excise Tax Avoidance Requirement, we may make such dispositions at times that, from an investment standpoint, are not advantageous.

If we fail to satisfy the Annual Distribution Requirement or otherwise fail to qualify as a RIC in any taxable year, we will be subject to tax in that year on all of our taxable income, regardless of whether we make any distributions to our stockholders. In that case, all of our income will be subject to corporate-level federal income tax, reducing the amount available to be distributed to our stockholders. In contrast, assuming we qualify as a RIC, our corporate-level federal income tax should be substantially reduced or eliminated. See "Election to be Taxed as a RIC" and "Risk Factors—We will be subject to corporate-level income tax if we are unable to qualify as a RIC."

The remainder of this discussion assumes that we qualify as a RIC and have satisfied the Annual Distribution Requirement.

TAXATION OF U.S. STOCKHOLDERS

Distributions by us generally are taxable to U.S. stockholders as ordinary income or capital gains. Distributions of our "investment company taxable income" (which is, generally, our ordinary income plus realized net short-term capital gains in excess of realized net long-term capital losses, reduced by deductible expenses) will be taxable as ordinary income to U.S. stockholders to the extent of our current and accumulated earnings and profits, whether paid in cash or reinvested in additional common stock. To the extent such distributions paid by us to non-corporate stockholders (including individuals) are attributable to dividends from U.S. corporations and certain qualified foreign corporations, such distributions generally will be eligible for a maximum tax rate of 15%. In this regard, it is anticipated that distributions paid by us will generally not be attributable to dividends and, therefore, generally will not qualify for the 15% maximum rate. Distributions of our net capital gains (which is generally our realized net long-term capital gains in excess of realized net short-term capital losses) properly designated by us as "capital gain dividends" will be taxable to a U.S. stockholder as long-term capital gains, at a maximum rate of 15% in the case of non-corporate U.S. stockholders, regardless of the U.S. stockholder's holding period for his, her or its common stock and regardless of whether paid in cash or reinvested in additional common stock. Distributions in excess of our earnings and profits first will reduce a U.S. stockholder's adjusted tax basis in such stockholder's common stock and, after the adjusted basis is reduced to zero, will constitute capital gains to such U.S. stockholder.

Although we currently intend to distribute any long-term capital gains at least annually, we may in the future decide to retain some or all of our long-term capital gains, but designate the retained amount as a "deemed distribution." In that case, among other consequences, we will pay tax on the retained amount, each U.S. stockholder will be required to include his, her or its share of the deemed distribution in income as if it had been actually distributed to the U.S. stockholder, and the U.S. stockholder will be entitled to claim a credit equal to his, her or its allocable share of the tax paid thereon by us. The amount of the deemed distribution net of such tax will be added to the U.S. stockholder's tax basis for his, her or its common stock. Since we expect to pay tax on any retained capital gains at our regular corporate tax rate, and since that rate is in excess of the maximum rate currently payable by individuals on long-term capital gains, the amount of tax that individual stockholders will be treated as having paid and for which they will receive a credit will exceed the tax they owe on the retained net capital gain. Such excess generally may be claimed as a credit against the U.S. stockholder's other federal income tax obligations or may be refunded to the extent it exceeds a stockholder's liability for federal income tax. A stockholder that is not subject to federal income tax or otherwise required to file a federal income tax return would be required to file a federal income tax return on the appropriate form in order to claim a refund for the taxes we paid. In order to utilize the deemed distribution approach, we must provide written notice to our stockholders prior to the expiration of 60 days after the close of the relevant taxable year. We cannot treat any of our investment company taxable income as a "deemed distribution."

We will be subject to alternative minimum tax, also referred to as "AMT," but any items that are treated differently for AMT purposes must be apportioned between us and our stockholders and

this may affect the stockholders' AMT liabilities. Although regulations explaining the precise method of apportionment have not yet been issued, such items will generally be apportioned in the same proportion that dividends paid to each stockholder bear to our taxable income (determined without regard to the dividends paid deduction), unless a different method for particular item is warranted under the circumstances.

For purposes of determining (1) whether the Annual Distribution Requirement is satisfied for any year and (2) the amount of capital gain dividends paid for that year, we may, under certain circumstances, elect to treat a dividend that is paid during the following taxable year as if it had been paid during the taxable year in question. If we make such an election, the U.S. stockholder will still be treated as receiving the dividend in the taxable year in which the distribution is made. However, any dividend declared by us in October, November or December of any calendar year, payable to stockholders of record on a specified date in such a month and actually paid during January of the following year, will be treated as if it had been received by our U.S. stockholders on December 31 of the year in which the dividend was declared.

If an investor purchases shares of our common stock shortly before the record date of a distribution, the price of the shares will include the value of the distribution and the investor will be subject to tax on the distribution even though it represents a return of his, her or its investment.

A stockholder generally will recognize taxable gain or loss if the stockholder sells or otherwise disposes of his, her or its shares of our common stock. Any gain arising from such sale or disposition generally will be treated as long-term capital gain or loss if the stockholder has held his, her or its shares for more than one year. Otherwise, it would be classified as short-term capital gain or loss. However, any capital loss arising from the sale or disposition of shares of our common stock held for six months or less will be treated as long-term capital loss to the extent of the amount of capital gain dividends received, or undistributed capital gain deemed received, with respect to such shares. In addition, all or a portion of any loss recognized upon a disposition of shares of our common stock may be disallowed if other shares of our common stock are purchased (whether through reinvestment of distributions or otherwise) within 30 days before or after the disposition.

In general, non-corporate U.S. stockholders currently are subject to a maximum federal income tax rate of 15% on their net capital gain (i.e., the excess of realized net long-term capital gain over realized net short-term capital loss for a taxable year, including a long-term capital gain derived from an investment in our shares). Such rate is lower than the maximum rate on ordinary income currently payable by individuals. Corporate U.S. stockholders currently are subject to federal income tax on net capital gain at the maximum 35% rate that also applies to ordinary income. Non-corporate stockholders with net capital losses for a year (i.e., capital losses in excess of capital gains) generally may deduct up to $3,000 of such losses against their ordinary income each year; any net capital losses of a non-corporate stockholder in excess of $3,000 generally may be carried forward and used in subsequent years as provided in the Code. Corporate stockholders generally may not deduct any net capital losses for a year, but may carry back such losses for three years or carry forward such losses for five years.

We will send to each of our U.S. stockholders, as promptly as possible after the end of each calendar year, a notice detailing, on a per share and per distribution basis, the amounts includible in such U.S. stockholder's taxable income for such year as ordinary income and as long-term capital gain. In addition, the federal tax status of each year's distributions generally will be reported to the Internal Revenue Service (including the amount of dividends, if any, eligible for the 15% maximum rate). Distributions may also be subject to additional state, local and foreign taxes depending on a U.S. stockholder's particular situation. The Company's ordinary income dividends, but not capital gains dividends, to corporate stockholders, may, if certain conditions are met, qualify for the 70% dividends received deduction to the extent that the Company has received qualifying dividend income during the

taxable year. Dividends distributed by us generally will not be eligible for the dividends-received deduction or the preferential rate applicable to qualifying dividends.

We may be required to withhold U.S. federal income tax ("backup withholding"), currently at a rate of 28%, from all taxable distributions to any non-corporate U.S. stockholder (1) who fails to furnish us with a correct taxpayer identification number or a certificate that such stockholder is exempt from backup withholding, or (2) with respect to whom the IRS notifies us that such stockholder has failed to properly report certain interest and dividend income to the IRS and to respond to notices to that effect. An individual's taxpayer identification number is his or her social security number. Any amount withheld under backup withholding is allowed as a credit against the U.S. stockholder's federal income tax liability and may entitle such stockholder to a refund, provided that proper information is timely provided to the IRS.

Under Treasury regulations, if a stockholder recognizes a loss with respect to shares of $2 million or more for a non-corporate stockholder or $10 million or more for a corporate stockholder in any single taxable year (or a greater loss over a combination of years), the stockholder must file with the IRS a disclosure statement on Form 8886. Direct stockholders of portfolio securities are in many cases excepted from this reporting requirement, but under current guidance, stockholders of a RIC are not excepted. Future guidance may extend the current exception from this reporting requirement to stockholders of most or all RICs. The fact that a loss is reportable under these regulations does not affect the legal determination of whether the taxpayer's treatment of the loss is proper. Significant monetary penalties apply to a failure to comply with this reporting requirement. States may also have a similar reporting requirement. Stockholders should consult their tax advisors to determine the applicability of these regulations in light of their individual circumstances.

TAXATION OF NON-U.S. STOCKHOLDERS

Whether an investment in the shares is appropriate for a Non-U.S. stockholder will depend upon that person's particular circumstances. An investment in the shares by a Non-U.S. stockholder may have adverse tax consequences. Non-U.S. stockholders should consult their tax advisers before investing in our common stock.

Distributions of our "investment company taxable income" to Non-U.S. stockholders will be subject to withholding of U.S. federal income tax at a 30% rate (or lower rate provided by an applicable income tax treaty) to the extent of our current and accumulated earnings and profits unless the distributions are effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the Non-U.S. stockholder, and, if an income tax treaty applies, are attributable to a permanent establishment in the United States of the Non-U.S. stockholder, in which case the distributions will be subject to federal income tax at the rates applicable to U.S. persons. In that case, we will not be required to withhold federal tax if the Non-U.S. stockholder complies with applicable certification and disclosure requirements. Special certification requirements apply to a Non-U.S. stockholder that is a foreign partnership or a foreign trust, and such entities are urged to consult their own tax advisers.

However, "interest-related dividends" and "short-term capital gain dividends" paid to our Non-U.S. stockholders will not be subject to withholding of U.S. federal income tax if the requirements below are satisfied. The amount of "interest-related dividends" that we may pay each year is limited to the amount of "qualified interest income" that we receive during that year, less the amount of our expenses properly allocable to such interest income. "Qualified interest income" includes, among other items, interest paid on debt obligations of a U.S. issuer, interest paid on deposits with U.S. banks and any "interest-related dividends" from another RIC. The exemption from withholding tax on "interest-related dividends", however, does not apply to distributions to a Non-U.S. stockholder (i) that has not complied with applicable certification requirements, (ii) of interest on an obligation issued by the Non-U.S. stockholder or by an issuer of which the Non-U.S. stockholder is a 10% shareholder, (iii) that is

within certain foreign countries that have inadequate information exchange with the United States, or (iv) of interest paid by a person that is a related person of the Non-U.S. stockholder and the Non-U.S. stockholder is a controlled foreign corporation. The amount of "short-term capital gain dividends" that we may pay each year generally is limited to the excess of our net short-term capital gains over our net long-term capital losses, without any reduction for our expenses allocable to such gains. The exemption from U.S. tax on "short-term capital gain dividends", however, does not apply with respect to an individual Non-U.S. stockholder who is present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year of the distribution. If our income for a taxable year includes "qualified interest income" or net short-term capital gains, we may designate dividends as "interest-related dividends" or "short-term capital gain dividends" by written notice mailed to Non-U.S. stockholders not later than 60 days after the close of our taxable year. These provisions apply to dividends paid with respect to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2005 and will cease to apply to dividends paid with respect to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2007. No assurance can be given that Congress will not repeal these provisions prior to their scheduled expiration.

Actual or deemed distributions of our net capital gains to a Non-U.S. stockholder, and gains realized by a Non-U.S. stockholder upon the sale of our common stock, will not be subject to withholding of U.S. federal income tax and generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax (a) unless the distributions or gains, as the case may be, are effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the Non-U.S. stockholder and, if an income tax treaty applies, are attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by the Non-U.S. stockholder in the United States or (b) the Non-U.S. stockholder is an individual, has been present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year, and certain other conditions are satisfied.

If we distribute our net capital gains in the form of deemed rather than actual distributions (which we may do in the future), a Non-U.S. stockholder will be entitled to a federal income tax credit or tax refund equal to the stockholder's allocable share of the tax we pay on the capital gains deemed to have been distributed. In order to obtain the refund, the Non-U.S. stockholder must obtain a U.S. taxpayer identification number and file a federal income tax return even if the Non-U.S. stockholder would not otherwise be required to obtain a U.S. taxpayer identification number or file a federal income tax return. For a corporate Non-U.S. stockholder, distributions (both actual and deemed), and gains realized upon the sale of our common stock that are effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business may, under certain circumstances, be subject to an additional "branch profits tax" at a 30% rate (or at a lower rate if provided for by an applicable income tax treaty).

Accordingly, investment in our shares may not be appropriate for a Non-U.S. stockholder.

A Non-U.S. stockholder who is a non-resident alien individual, and who is otherwise subject to withholding of federal income tax, may be subject to information reporting and backup withholding of federal income tax on dividends unless the Non-U.S. stockholder provides us or the dividend paying agent with an IRS Form W-8BEN (or an acceptable substitute form) or otherwise meets documentary evidence requirements for establishing that it is a Non-U.S. stockholder or otherwise establishes an exemption from backup withholding.

Non-U.S. persons should consult their own tax advisers with respect to the U.S. federal income tax and withholding tax, and state, local and foreign tax consequences of an investment in the shares.

FAILURE TO QUALIFY AS A RIC

If we were unable to qualify for treatment as a RIC, we would be subject to tax on all of our taxable income at regular corporate rates. We would not be able to deduct distributions to stockholders, nor would they be required to be made. Distributions would generally be taxable to our stockholders as ordinary dividend income eligible for the 15% maximum rate to the extent of our current and accumulated earnings and profits. Subject to certain limitations under the Code, corporate

distributees would be eligible for the dividends received deduction. Distributions in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits would be treated first as a return of capital to the extent of the stockholder's tax basis, and any remaining distributions would be treated as a capital gain. If we were to fail to meet the RIC requirements for more than two consecutive years and then to seek to requalify as a RIC, we would be required to recognize gain to the extent of any unrealized appreciation in our assets unless we made a special election to pay corporate-level tax on any such unrealized appreciation recognized during the succeeding 10-year period.

DESCRIPTION OF OUR STOCK

The following description is based on relevant portions of the Maryland General Corporation Law and on our charter and bylaws. This summary is not necessarily complete, and we refer you to the Maryland General Corporation Law and our charter and bylaws for a more detailed description of the provisions summarized below.

STOCK

Our authorized stock consists of 100,000,000 shares of stock, par value $0.001 per share, all of which are currently designated as common stock. Our common stock is quoted on The NASDAQ National Market under the symbol "ARCC." On May 10, 2006, the last reported sales price of our common stock on The NASDAQ National Market was $17.00 per share. There are no outstanding options or warrants to purchase our stock. No stock has been authorized for issuance under any equity compensation plans. Under Maryland law, our stockholders generally are not personally liable for our debts or obligations.

Under our charter, our board of directors is authorized to classify and reclassify any unissued shares of stock into other classes or series of stock and authorize the issuance of shares of stock without obtaining stockholder approval. As permitted by the Maryland General Corporation Law, our charter provides that the board of directors, without any action by our stockholders, may amend the charter from time to time to increase or decrease the aggregate number of shares of stock or the number of shares of stock of any class or series that we have authority to issue.

Common Stock

All shares of our common stock have equal rights as to earnings, assets, dividends and voting and, when they are issued, will be duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable. Distributions may be paid to the holders of our common stock if, as and when authorized by our board of directors and declared by us out of funds legally available therefor. Shares of our common stock have no preemptive, exchange, conversion or redemption rights and are freely transferable, except where their transfer is restricted by federal and state securities laws or by contract. In the event of a liquidation, dissolution or winding up of Ares Capital, each share of our common stock would be entitled to share ratably in all of our assets that are legally available for distribution after we pay all debts and other liabilities and subject to any preferential rights of holders of our preferred stock, if any preferred stock is outstanding at such time. Each share of our common stock is entitled to one vote on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders, including the election of directors. Except as provided with respect to any other class or series of stock, the holders of our common stock will possess exclusive voting power. There is no cumulative voting in the election of directors, which means that holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock can elect all of our directors, and holders of less than a majority of such shares will be unable to elect any director.

The following are our outstanding classes of capital stock as of May 8, 2006:

(1) Title of Class	(2) Amount Authorized	(3) Amount Held by Registrant or for its Account	(4) Amount Outstanding Exclusive of Amount Shown Under(3)
Common Stock	100,000,000	—	38,108,897

Preferred Stock

Our charter authorizes our board of directors to classify and reclassify any unissued shares of stock into other classes or series of stock, including preferred stock. Prior to issuance of shares of each

class or series, the board of directors is required by Maryland law and by our charter to set the terms, preferences, conversion or other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends or other distributions, qualifications and terms or conditions of redemption for each class or series. Thus, the board of directors could authorize the issuance of shares of preferred stock with terms and conditions that could have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a transaction or a change in control that might involve a premium price for holders of our common stock or otherwise be in their best interest. You should note, however, that any issuance of preferred stock must comply with the requirements of the 1940 Act. The 1940 Act requires, among other things, that (1) immediately after issuance and before any dividend or other distribution is made with respect to our common stock and before any purchase of common stock is made, such preferred stock together with all other indebtedness and senior securities must not exceed an amount equal to 50% of our total assets after deducting the amount of such dividend, distribution or purchase price, as the case may be, and (2) the holders of shares of preferred stock, if any are issued, must be entitled as a class to elect two directors at all times and to elect a majority of the directors if dividends on such preferred stock are in arrears by two years or more. Certain matters under the 1940 Act require the separate vote of the holders of any issued and outstanding preferred stock. For example, holders of preferred stock would vote separately from the holders of common stock on a proposal to cease operations as a BDC. We believe that the availability for issuance of preferred stock will provide us with increased flexibility in structuring future financings and acquisitions.

LIMITATION ON LIABILITY OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS; INDEMNIFICATION AND ADVANCE OF EXPENSES

Maryland law permits a Maryland corporation to include in its charter a provision limiting the liability of its directors and officers to the corporation and its stockholders for money damages except for liability resulting from (a) actual receipt of an improper benefit or profit in money, property or services or (b) active and deliberate dishonesty established by a final judgment as being material to the cause of action. Our charter contains such a provision which eliminates directors' and officers' liability to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law, subject to the requirements of the 1940 Act.

Our charter authorizes us and our bylaws obligate us, to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law and subject to the requirements of the 1940 Act, to indemnify any present or former director or officer or any individual who, while a director or officer and at our request, serves or has served another corporation, real estate investment trust, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise as a director, officer, partner or trustee, from and against any claim or liability to which that person may become subject or which that person may incur by reason of his or her status as a present or former director or officer and to pay or reimburse their reasonable expenses in advance of final disposition of a proceeding. The charter and bylaws also permit us to indemnify and advance expenses to any person who served a predecessor of us in any of the capacities described above and any of our employees or agents or any employees or agents of our predecessor. In accordance with the 1940 Act, we will not indemnify any person for any liability to which such person would be subject by reason of such person's willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of his or her office. In addition to the indemnification provided for in our bylaws, we have entered into indemnification agreements with each of our current directors and officers and with members of our investment adviser's investment committee and we intend to enter into indemnification agreements with each of our future directors and officers. The indemnification agreements attempt to provide these directors and senior officers the maximum indemnification permitted under Maryland law and the 1940 Act. The agreements provide, among other things, for the advancement of expenses and indemnification for liabilities incurred which such person may incur by reason of his status as a present or former director or officer or member of our investment adviser's investment committee in any action or proceeding arising out of the performance

of such person's services as a present or former director or officer or member of our investment adviser's investment committee.

Maryland law requires a corporation (unless its charter provides otherwise, which our charter does not) to indemnify a director or officer who has been successful, on the merits or otherwise, in the defense of any proceeding to which he or she is made or threatened to be made a party by reason of his or her service in that capacity. Maryland law permits a corporation to indemnify its present and former directors and officers, among others, against judgments, penalties, fines, settlements and reasonable expenses actually incurred by them in connection with any proceeding to which they may be made or are threatened to be made a party by reason of their service in those or other capacities unless it is established that (a) the act or omission of the director or officer was material to the matter giving rise to the proceeding and (1) was committed in bad faith or (2) was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty, (b) the director or officer actually received an improper personal benefit in money, property or services or (c) in the case of any criminal proceeding, the director or officer had reasonable cause to believe that the act or omission was unlawful. However, under Maryland law, a Maryland corporation may not indemnify for an adverse judgment in a suit by or in the right of the corporation or for a judgment of liability on the basis that a personal benefit was improperly received, unless in either case a court orders indemnification, and then only for expenses. In addition, Maryland law permits a corporation to advance reasonable expenses to a director or officer upon the corporation's receipt of (a) a written affirmation by the director or officer of his or her good faith belief that he or she has met the standard of conduct necessary for indemnification by the corporation and (b) a written undertaking by him or her or on his or her behalf to repay the amount paid or reimbursed by the corporation if it is ultimately determined that the standard of conduct was not met.

PROVISIONS OF THE MARYLAND GENERAL CORPORATION LAW AND OUR CHARTER AND BYLAWS

The Maryland General Corporation Law and our charter and bylaws contain provisions that could make it more difficult for a potential acquiror to acquire us by means of a tender offer, proxy contest or otherwise. These provisions are expected to discourage certain coercive takeover practices and inadequate takeover bids and to encourage persons seeking to acquire control of us to negotiate first with our board of directors. We believe that the benefits of these provisions outweigh the potential disadvantages of discouraging any such acquisition proposals because, among other things, the negotiation of such proposals may improve their terms.

Classified board of directors

Our board of directors is divided into three classes of directors serving staggered three-year terms. The initial terms of the first, second and third classes will expire in 2005, 2006 and 2007, respectively. Beginning in 2005, upon expiration of their current terms, directors of each class are elected to serve for three-year terms and until their successors are duly elected and qualify and each year one class of directors will be elected by the stockholders. A classified board may render a change in control of us or removal of our incumbent management more difficult. We believe, however, that the longer time required to elect a majority of a classified board of directors will help to ensure the continuity and stability of our management and policies.

Election of directors

Our charter and bylaws provide that the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of stock entitled to vote in the election of directors will be required to elect a director. Pursuant to the charter, our board of directors may amend the bylaws to alter the vote required to elect directors.

Number of directors; vacancies; removal

Our charter provides that the number of directors will be set only by the board of directors in accordance with our bylaws. Our bylaws provide that a majority of our entire board of directors may at any time increase or decrease the number of directors. However, unless our bylaws are amended, the number of directors may never be less than four nor more than eight. Our charter sets forth our election, subject to certain requirements, to be subject to the provision of Subtitle 8 of Title 3 of the Maryland General Corporation Law regarding the filling of vacancies on the board of directors. Accordingly, at such time, except as may be provided by the board of directors in setting the terms of any class or series of preferred stock, any and all vacancies on the board of directors may be filled only by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining directors in office, even if the remaining directors do not constitute a quorum, and any director elected to fill a vacancy will serve for the remainder of the full term of the directorship in which the vacancy occurred and until a successor is elected and qualifies, subject to any applicable requirements of the 1940 Act.

Our charter provides that a director may be removed only for cause, as defined in our charter, and then only by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast in the election of directors.

Action by stockholders

Under the Maryland General Corporation Law, stockholder action can be taken only at an annual or special meeting of stockholders or by unanimous written or electronically transmitted consent in lieu of a meeting. These provisions, combined with the requirements of our bylaws regarding the calling of a stockholder-requested special meeting of stockholders discussed below, may have the effect of delaying consideration of a stockholder proposal until the next annual meeting.

Advance notice provisions for stockholder nominations and stockholder proposals

Our bylaws provide that with respect to an annual meeting of stockholders, nominations of individuals for election to the board of directors and the proposal of business to be considered by stockholders may be made only (1) pursuant to our notice of the meeting, (2) by the board of directors or (3) by a stockholder who is entitled to vote at the meeting and who has complied with the advance notice procedures of the bylaws. With respect to special meetings of stockholders, only the business specified in our notice of the meeting may be brought before the meeting. Nominations of individuals for election to the board of directors at a special meeting may be made only (1) pursuant to our notice of the meeting, (2) by the board of directors or (3) provided that the board of directors has determined that directors will be elected at the meeting, by a stockholder who is entitled to vote at the meeting and who has complied with the advance notice provisions of the bylaws.

The purpose of requiring stockholders to give us advance notice of nominations and other business is to afford our board of directors a meaningful opportunity to consider the qualifications of the proposed nominees and the advisability of any other proposed business and, to the extent deemed necessary or desirable by our board of directors, to inform stockholders and make recommendations about such qualifications or business, as well as to provide a more orderly procedure for conducting meetings of stockholders. Although our bylaws do not give our board of directors any power to disapprove stockholder nominations for the election of directors or proposals recommending certain action, they may have the effect of precluding a contest for the election of directors or the consideration of stockholder proposals if proper procedures are not followed and of discouraging or deterring a third party from conducting a solicitation of proxies to elect its own slate of directors or to approve its own proposal without regard to whether consideration of such nominees or proposals might be harmful or beneficial to us and our stockholders.

Calling of special meetings of stockholders

Our bylaws provide that special meetings of stockholders may be called by our board of directors and certain of our officers. Additionally, our bylaws provide that, subject to the satisfaction of certain procedural and informational requirements by the stockholders requesting the meeting, a special meeting of stockholders will be called by the secretary of the corporation upon the written request of stockholders entitled to cast not less than a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast at such meeting.

Approval of extraordinary corporate action; amendment of charter and bylaws

Under Maryland law, a Maryland corporation generally cannot dissolve, amend its charter, merge, sell all or substantially all of its assets, engage in a share exchange or engage in similar transactions outside the ordinary course of business, unless approved by the affirmative vote of stockholders entitled to cast at least two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter. However, a Maryland corporation may provide in its charter for approval of these matters by a lesser percentage, but not less than a majority of all of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter. Our charter generally provides for approval of charter amendments and extraordinary transactions by the stockholders entitled to cast at least a majority of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter. Our charter also provides that certain charter amendments and any proposal for our conversion, whether by merger or otherwise, from a closed-end company to an open-end company or any proposal for our liquidation or dissolution requires the approval of the stockholders entitled to cast at least 80 percent of the votes entitled to be cast on such matter. However, if such amendment or proposal is approved by at least two-thirds of our continuing directors (in addition to approval by our board of directors), such amendment or proposal may be approved by a majority of the votes entitled to be cast on such a matter. The "continuing directors" are defined in our charter as our current directors as well as those directors whose nomination for election by the stockholders or whose election by the directors to fill vacancies is approved by a majority of the continuing directors then on the board of directors.

Our charter and bylaws provide that the board of directors will have the exclusive power to adopt, alter or repeal any provision of our bylaws and to make new bylaws.

No appraisal rights

Except with respect to appraisal rights arising in connection with the Maryland Control Share Acquisition Act discussed below, as permitted by the Maryland General Corporation Law, our charter provides that stockholders will not be entitled to exercise appraisal rights unless a majority of our board of directors determines that such rights will apply.

Control share acquisitions

The Control Share Acquisition Act provides that control shares of a Maryland corporation acquired in a control share acquisition have no voting rights except to the extent approved by a vote of two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter. Shares owned by the acquiror, by officers or by employees who are directors of the corporation are excluded from shares entitled to vote on the matter. Control shares are voting shares of stock which, if aggregated with all other shares of stock owned by the acquiror or in respect of which the acquiror is able to exercise or direct the exercise of voting power (except solely by virtue of a revocable proxy), would entitle the acquiror to exercise voting power in electing directors within one of the following ranges of voting power:

- one-tenth or more but less than one-third;
- one-third or more but less than a majority; or
- a majority or more of all voting power.

The requisite stockholder approval must be obtained each time an acquiror crosses one of the thresholds of voting power set forth above. Control shares do not include shares the acquiring person is then entitled to vote as a result of having previously obtained stockholder approval. A control share acquisition means the acquisition of control shares, subject to certain exceptions.

A person who has made or proposes to make a control share acquisition may compel the board of directors of the corporation to call a special meeting of stockholders to be held within 50 days of demand to consider the voting rights of the shares. The right to compel the calling of a special meeting is subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions, including an undertaking to pay the expenses of the meeting. If no request for a meeting is made, the corporation may itself present the question at any stockholders meeting.

If voting rights are not approved at the meeting or if the acquiring person does not deliver an acquiring person statement as required by the statute, then the corporation may repurchase for fair value any or all of the control shares, except those for which voting rights have previously been approved. The right of the corporation to repurchase control shares is subject to certain conditions and limitations, including, as provided in our bylaws, compliance with the 1940 Act, which will prohibit any such repurchase other than in limited circumstances. Fair value is determined, without regard to the absence of voting rights for the control shares, as of the date of the last control share acquisition by the acquiror or of any meeting of stockholders at which the voting rights of the shares are considered and not approved. If voting rights for control shares are approved at a stockholders meeting and the acquiror becomes entitled to vote a majority of the shares entitled to vote, all other stockholders may exercise appraisal rights. The fair value of the shares as determined for purposes of appraisal rights may not be less than the highest price per share paid by the acquiror in the control share acquisition.

The Control Share Acquisition Act does not apply (a) to shares acquired in a merger, consolidation or share exchange if the corporation is a party to the transaction or (b) to acquisitions approved or exempted by the charter or bylaws of the corporation.

Our bylaws contain a provision exempting from the Control Share Acquisition Act any and all acquisitions by any person of our shares of stock. Such provision could also be amended or eliminated at any time in the future. However, we will amend our bylaws to be subject to the Control Share Acquisition Act only if the board of directors determines that it would be in our best interests based on our determination that our being subject to the Control Share Acquisition Act does not conflict with the 1940 Act.

Business combinations

Under Maryland law, "business combinations" between a Maryland corporation and an interested stockholder or an affiliate of an interested stockholder are prohibited for five years after the most recent date on which the interested stockholder becomes an interested stockholder. These business combinations include a merger, consolidation, share exchange or, in circumstances specified in the statute, an asset transfer or issuance or reclassification of equity securities. An interested stockholder is defined as:

- any person who beneficially owns 10% or more of the voting power of the corporation's shares; or
- an affiliate or associate of the corporation who, at any time within the two-year period prior to the date in question, was the beneficial owner of 10% or more of the voting power of the then outstanding voting stock of the corporation.

A person is not an interested stockholder under this statute if the board of directors approved in advance the transaction by which he otherwise would have become an interested stockholder.

However, in approving a transaction, the board of directors may provide that its approval is subject to compliance, at or after the time of approval, with any terms and conditions determined by the board.

After the five-year prohibition, any business combination between the corporation and an interested stockholder generally must be recommended by the board of directors of the corporation and approved by the affirmative vote of at least:

- 80% of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of outstanding shares of voting stock of the corporation; and
- two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of voting stock of the corporation other than shares held by the interested stockholder with whom or with whose affiliate the business combination is to be effected or held by an affiliate or associate of the interested stockholder.

These super-majority vote requirements do not apply if the corporation's common stockholders receive a minimum price, as defined under Maryland law, for their shares in the form of cash or other consideration in the same form as previously paid by the interested stockholder for its shares.

The statute permits various exemptions from its provisions, including business combinations that are exempted by the board of directors before the time that the interested stockholder becomes an interested stockholder. Our board of directors has adopted a resolution that any business combination between us and any other person is exempted from the provisions of the Business Combination Act, provided that the business combination is first approved by the board of directors, including a majority of the directors who are not interested persons as defined in the 1940 Act. This resolution, however, may be altered or repealed in whole or in part at any time. If this resolution is repealed, or the board of directors does not otherwise approve a business combination, the statute may discourage others from trying to acquire control of us and increase the difficulty of consummating any offer.

Conflict with 1940 Act

Our bylaws provide that, if and to the extent that any provision of the Maryland General Corporation Law, including the Control Share Acquisition Act (if we amend our bylaws to be subject to such Act) and the Business Combination Act, or any provision of our charter or bylaws conflicts with any provision of the 1940 Act, the applicable provision of the 1940 Act will control.

REGULATION

We have elected to be regulated as a BDC under the 1940 Act and have elected to be treated as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code. As with other companies regulated by the 1940 Act, a BDC must adhere to certain substantive regulatory requirements. The 1940 Act contains prohibitions and restrictions relating to transactions between BDCs and their affiliates (including any investment advisers or sub-advisers), principal underwriters and certain affiliates of those affiliates or underwriters. Among other things, we cannot invest in any portfolio company in which any of the funds managed by Ares currently has an investment (although we may co-invest on a concurrent basis with other funds managed by Ares, subject to compliance with existing regulatory guidance, applicable regulations and our allocation procedures). Some of these co-investments would only be permitted pursuant to an exemptive order from the SEC and we have currently determined not to pursue obtaining such an order. The 1940 Act also requires that a majority of the directors be persons other than "interested persons," as that term is defined in the 1940 Act. In addition, the 1940 Act provides that we may not change the nature of our business so as to cease to be, or to withdraw our election as, a BDC unless that change is approved by a majority of our outstanding voting securities. A majority of the outstanding voting securities of a company is defined under the 1940 Act as the lesser of: (i) 67% or more of such company's shares present at a meeting if more than 50% of the outstanding shares of such company are present and represented by proxy or (ii) more than 50% of the outstanding shares of such company.

We may invest up to 100% of our assets in securities acquired directly from issuers in privately negotiated transactions. With respect to such securities, we may, for the purpose of public resale, be deemed an "underwriter" as that term is defined in the Securities Act. We also do not intend to acquire securities issued by any investment company that exceed the limits imposed by the 1940 Act. Under these limits, we generally cannot acquire more than 3% of the voting stock of any investment company (as defined in the 1940 Act), invest more than 5% of the value of our total assets in the securities of one investment company or invest more than 10% of the value of our total assets in the securities of investment companies in the aggregate. With regard to that portion of our portfolio invested in securities issued by investment companies, it should be noted that such investments might subject our stockholders to additional expenses. We may change each of the foregoing policies without stockholder approval.

QUALIFYING ASSETS

A BDC must have been organized and have its principal place of business in the United States and must be operated for the purpose of making investments in the types of securities described in (1), (2) or (3) below. Thus, under the 1940 Act, a BDC may not acquire any asset other than assets of the type listed in Section 55(a) of the 1940 Act, which are referred to as qualifying assets, unless, at the time the acquisition is made, qualifying assets represent at least 70% of the company's total assets. The principal categories of qualifying assets relevant to our proposed business are the following:

(1) Securities purchased in transactions not involving any public offering from the issuer of such securities, which issuer (subject to certain limited exceptions) is an eligible portfolio company, or from any person who is, or has been during the preceding 13 months, an affiliated person of an eligible portfolio company, or from any other person, subject to such rules as may be prescribed by the SEC. An eligible portfolio company is defined in the 1940 Act as any issuer which:

(a) is organized under the laws of, and has its principal place of business in, the United States;

(b) is not an investment company (other than a small business investment company wholly owned by the BDC) or a company that would be an investment company but for certain exclusions under the 1940 Act; and

(c) satisfies any of the following:

- does not have any class of securities with respect to which a broker or dealer may extend margin credit;
- is controlled by a BDC or a group of companies including a BDC, the BDC actually exercises a controlling influence over the management or policies of the eligible portfolio company, and, as a result thereof, the BDC has an affiliated person who is a director of the eligible portfolio company; or
- is a small and solvent company having total assets of not more than $4 million and capital and surplus of not less than $2 million.

(2) Securities of any eligible portfolio company which we control.

(3) Securities purchased in a private transaction from a U.S. issuer that is not an investment company or from an affiliated person of the issuer, or in transactions incident thereto, if the issuer is in bankruptcy and subject to reorganization or if the issuer, immediately prior to the purchase of its securities was unable to meet its obligations as they came due without material assistance other than conventional lending or financing arrangements.

(4) Securities of an eligible portfolio company purchased from any person in a private transaction if there is no ready market for such securities and we already own 60% of the outstanding equity of the eligible portfolio company.

(5) Securities received in exchange for or distributed on or with respect to securities described in (1) through (4) above, or pursuant to the exercise of warrants or rights relating to such securities.

(6) Cash, cash equivalents, U.S. Government securities or high-quality debt securities maturing in one year or less from the time of investment.

Amendments promulgated in 1998 by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to Regulation T under the Exchange Act expanded the definition of marginable security to include any non-equity security. These amendments have raised questions as to whether a private company that has outstanding debt would qualify as an eligible portfolio company.

We believe that the senior loans and mezzanine investments that we propose to acquire should constitute qualifying assets because the privately held issuers will not, at the time of our investment, have outstanding marginable securities for the reasons set forth in this paragraph. First, we expect to make a large portion of our investments in companies that, to the extent they have any outstanding debt, have issued such debt on terms and in circumstances such that such debt should not, under existing legal precedent, be "securities" under the Exchange Act and therefore should not be deemed marginable securities under Regulation T. Second, we believe that, should a different position be taken such that those investments may be securities, they should still not be marginable securities. In particular, debt that does not trade in a public secondary market or is not rated investment grade is generally not a margin eligible security under the rules established by the self-regulatory organizations, including the New York Stock Exchange and National Association of Securities Dealers, that govern the terms on which broker-dealers may extend margin credit. Unless the questions raised by the amendments to Regulation T have been addressed by legislative, administrative or judicial action that contradicts our interpretation, we intend to treat as qualifying assets only those senior loans and mezzanine investments that, at the time of our investment, are issued by an issuer that does not have

outstanding a class of margin eligible securities. Likewise, we will treat equity securities issued by a portfolio company as qualifying assets only if such securities are issued by a company that has no margin eligible securities outstanding at the time we purchase such securities.

If there were a court ruling or regulatory decision that conflicts with our interpretations, we could lose our status as a BDC or be precluded from investing in the manner described in this prospectus, either of which would have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. See "Risk Factors—A failure on our part to maintain our status as a BDC would reduce our operating flexibility." Such a ruling or decision also may require that we dispose of investments that we made based on our interpretation of Regulation T. Such dispositions could have a material adverse effect on us and our stockholders. We may need to dispose of such investments quickly, which would make it difficult to dispose of such investments on favorable terms. In addition, because these types of investments will generally be illiquid, we may have difficulty in finding a buyer and, even if we do find a buyer, we may have to sell the investments at a substantial loss. See "Risk Factors—Changes in laws or regulations governing our operations, or changes in the interpretation thereof, and any failure by us to comply with laws or regulations governing our operations may adversely affect our business."

On November 1, 2004, the Securities and Exchange Commission proposed for comment two new rules under the Investment Company Act of 1940 that are designed to realign the definition of eligible portfolio company set forth under the Investment Company Act of 1940, and the investment activities of BDCs, with their original purpose by (1) defining eligible portfolio company with reference to whether an issuer has any class of securities listed on a national securities exchange or on an automated interdealer quotation system of a national securities association ("NASDAQ") and (2) permitting BDCs to make certain additional ("follow-on") investments in those issuers even after they list their securities on a national securities exchange or on NASDAQ. The proposed rules are intended to expand the definition of eligible portfolio company in a manner that would promote the flow of capital to small, developing and financially troubled companies. We cannot assure you that these rules, or related rules arising out of the comment process, will be approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Until the SEC or its staff has issued final rules with respect to the issue discussed above, we will continue to monitor this issue closely, and may be required to adjust our investment focus to comply with and/or take advantage of any future administrative position, judicial decision or legislative action.

MANAGERIAL ASSISTANCE TO PORTFOLIO COMPANIES

In order to count portfolio securities as qualifying assets for the purpose of the 70% test discussed above under "Qualifying Assets," the BDC must either control the issuer of the securities or must offer to make available to the issuer of the securities (other than small and solvent companies described above) significant managerial assistance; except that, where the BDC purchases such securities in conjunction with one or more other persons acting together, one of the other persons in the group may make available such managerial assistance. Making available managerial assistance means, among other things, any arrangement whereby the BDC, through its directors, officers or employees, offers to provide, and, if the offer is accepted, does so provide, significant guidance and counsel concerning the management, operations or business objectives and policies of a portfolio company.

TEMPORARY INVESTMENTS

Pending investment in other types of "qualifying assets," as described above, our investments may consist of cash, cash equivalents, U.S. Government securities or high-quality debt securities

maturing in one year or less from the time of investment, which we refer to, collectively, as temporary investments, so that 70% of our assets are qualifying assets. Typically, we will invest in U.S. Treasury bills or in repurchase agreements, provided that such agreements are fully collateralized by cash or securities issued by the U.S. Government or its agencies. A repurchase agreement involves the purchase by an investor, such as us, of a specified security and the simultaneous agreement by the seller to repurchase it at an agreed-upon future date and at a price which is greater than the purchase price by an amount that reflects an agreed-upon interest rate. There is no percentage restriction on the proportion of our assets that may be invested in such repurchase agreements. However, if more than 25% of our total assets constitute repurchase agreements from a single counterparty, we would not meet the Diversification Tests in order to qualify as a RIC for federal income tax purposes. Thus, we do not intend to enter into repurchase agreements with a single counterparty in excess of this limit. Our investment adviser will monitor the creditworthiness of the counterparties with which we enter into repurchase agreement transactions.

INDEBTEDNESS AND SENIOR SECURITIES

We are permitted, under specified conditions, to issue multiple classes of indebtedness and one class of stock senior to our common stock if our asset coverage, as defined in the 1940 Act, is at least equal to 200% immediately after each such issuance. In addition, while any indebtedness and senior securities remain outstanding, we must make provisions to prohibit any distribution to our stockholders or the repurchase of such securities or shares unless we meet the applicable asset coverage ratios at the time of the distribution or repurchase. We may also borrow amounts up to 5% of the value of our total assets for temporary or emergency purposes without regard to asset coverage. For a discussion of the risks associated with leverage, see "Risk Factors—Risks Relating to our Business—Regulations governing our operation as a BDC will affect our ability to, and the way in which we, raise additional capital."

CODE OF ETHICS

We and Ares Capital Management have each adopted a code of ethics pursuant to Rule 17j-1 under the 1940 Act that establishes procedures for personal investments and restricts certain personal securities transactions. Personnel subject to each code may invest in securities for their personal investment accounts, including securities that may be purchased or held by us, so long as such investments are made in accordance with the code's requirements. Our code of ethics is filed as an exhibit to our registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. For information on how to obtain a copy of the code of ethics, see "Available Information."

PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SEC-registered advisers that have the authority to vote (client) proxies (which authority may be implied from a general grant of investment discretion) are required to adopt policies and procedures reasonably designed to ensure that the adviser votes proxies in the best interests of its clients. Registered advisers also must maintain certain records on proxy voting. In most cases, Ares Capital invests in securities that do not generally entitle it to voting rights in its portfolio companies. When Ares Capital does have voting rights, it delegates the exercise of such rights to Ares Capital Management. Ares Capital Management's proxy voting policies and procedures are summarized below:

In determining how to vote, officers of our investment adviser consults with each other and other investment professionals of Ares, taking into account the interests of Ares Capital and its investors as well as any potential conflicts of interest. Our investment adviser consults with legal counsel to identify potential conflicts of interest. Where a potential conflict of interest exists, our investment adviser may, if it so elects, resolve it by following the recommendation of a disinterested third party, by seeking the direction of the independent directors of Ares Capital or, in extreme cases,

by abstaining from voting. While our investment adviser may retain an outside service to provide voting recommendations and to assist in analyzing votes, our investment adviser will not delegate its voting authority to any third party.

An officer of Ares Capital Management keeps a written record of how all such proxies are voted. Our investment adviser retains records of (1) proxy voting policies and procedures, (2) all proxy statements received (or it may rely on proxy statements filed on the SEC's EDGAR system in lieu thereof), (3) all votes cast, (4) investor requests for voting information, and (5) any specific documents prepared or received in connection with a decision on a proxy vote. If it uses an outside service, our investment adviser may rely on such service to maintain copies of proxy statements and records, so long as such service will provide a copy of such documents promptly upon request.

Our investment adviser's proxy voting policies are not exhaustive and are designed to be responsive to the wide range of issues that may be subject to a proxy vote. In general, our investment adviser votes our proxies in accordance with these guidelines unless: (1) it has determined otherwise due to the specific and unusual facts and circumstances with respect to a particular vote, (2) the subject matter of the vote is not covered by these guidelines, (3) a material conflict of interest is present, or (4) we find it necessary to vote contrary to our general guidelines to maximize stockholder value or the best interests of Ares Capital. In reviewing proxy issues, our investment adviser generally uses the following guidelines:

Elections of Directors: In general, our investment adviser will vote in favor of the management-proposed slate of directors. If there is a proxy fight for seats on a portfolio company's board of directors, or our investment adviser determines that there are other compelling reasons for withholding our vote, it will determine the appropriate vote on the matter. We may withhold votes for directors that fail to act on key issues, such as failure to: (1) implement proposals to declassify a board, (2) implement a majority vote requirement, (3) submit a rights plan to a stockholder vote or (4) act on tender offers where a majority of stockholders have tendered their shares. Finally, our investment adviser may withhold votes for directors of non-U.S. issuers where there is insufficient information about the nominees disclosed in the proxy statement.

Appointment of Auditors: We believe that a portfolio company remains in the best position to choose its independent auditors and our investment adviser will generally support management's recommendation in this regard.

Changes in Capital Structure: Changes in a portfolio company's charter or bylaws may be required by state or federal regulation. In general, our investment adviser will cast our votes in accordance with the management on such proposals. However, our investment adviser will consider carefully any proposal regarding a change in corporate structure that is not required by state or federal regulation.

Corporate Restructurings, Mergers and Acquisitions: We believe proxy votes dealing with corporate reorganizations are an extension of the investment decision. Accordingly, our investment adviser will analyze such proposals on a case-by-case basis and vote in accordance with its perception of our interests.

Proposals Affecting Stockholder Rights: We will generally vote in favor of proposals that give stockholders a greater voice in the affairs of a portfolio company and oppose any measure that seeks to limit such rights. However, when analyzing such proposals, our investment adviser will balance the financial impact of the proposal against any impairment of stockholder rights as well as of our investment in the portfolio company.

Corporate Governance: We recognize the importance of good corporate governance. Accordingly, our investment adviser will generally favor proposals that promote transparency and accountability within a portfolio company.

Anti-Takeover Measures: Our investment adviser will evaluate, on a case-by-case basis, any proposals regarding anti-takeover measures to determine the measure's likely effect on stockholder value dilution.

Stock Splits: Our investment adviser will generally vote with management on stock split matters.

Limited Liability of Directors: Our investment adviser will generally vote with management on matters that could adversely affect the limited liability of directors.

Social and Corporate Responsibility: Our investment adviser will review proposals related to social, political and environmental issues to determine whether they may adversely affect stockholder value. Our investment adviser may abstain from voting on such proposals where they do not have a readily determinable financial impact on stockholder value.

Stockholders may obtain information regarding how we voted proxies with respect to our portfolio securities free of charge by making a written request for proxy voting information to: Ares Capital Corporation, 1999 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1900, Los Angeles, California 90067.

PRIVACY PRINCIPLES

We are committed to maintaining the privacy of our stockholders and to safeguarding their non-public personal information. The following information is provided to help you understand what personal information we collect, how we protect that information and why, in certain cases, we may share information with select other parties.

Generally, we do not receive any non-public personal information relating to our stockholders, although certain non-public personal information of our stockholders may become available to us. We do not disclose any non-public personal information about our stockholders or former stockholders to anyone, except as permitted by law or as is necessary in order to service stockholder accounts (for example, to a transfer agent or third party administrator).

We restrict access to non-public personal information about our stockholders to employees of our investment adviser and its affiliates with a legitimate business need for the information. We maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards designed to protect the non-public personal information of our stockholders.

OTHER

We will be periodically examined by the SEC for compliance with the 1940 Act.

We are required to provide and maintain a bond issued by a reputable fidelity insurance company to protect us against larceny and embezzlement. Furthermore, as a BDC, we are prohibited from protecting any director or officer against any liability to Ares Capital or our stockholders arising from willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of such person's office.

Compliance with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and The NASDAQ National Market Corporate Governance Regulations

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 imposes a wide variety of regulatory requirements on publicly-held companies and their insiders. Many of these requirements affect us. The Sarbanes-Oxley Act has required us to review our policies and procedures to determine whether we comply with the

Sarbanes-Oxley Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder. We will continue to monitor our compliance with all future regulations that are adopted under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and will take actions necessary to ensure that we are in compliance therewith.

In addition, The NASDAQ National Market has adopted corporate governance changes to its listing standards. We believe we are in compliance with such corporate governance listing standards. We will continue to monitor our compliance with all future listing standards and will take actions necessary to ensure that we are in compliance therewith.

CUSTODIAN, TRANSFER AND DIVIDEND PAYING AGENT AND REGISTRAR

Our securities are held under a custody agreement by U.S. Bank National Association. The address of the custodian is Corporate Trust Services, One Federal Street, 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02110. Computershare Investor Services, LLC will act as our transfer agent, dividend paying agent and registrar. The principal business address of Computershare is 2 N. LaSalle Street Chicago, IL 60602, telephone number: (312) 588-4993.

BROKERAGE ALLOCATION AND OTHER PRACTICES

Since we will generally acquire and dispose of our investments in privately negotiated transactions, we will infrequently use brokers in the normal course of our business. Subject to policies established by our board of directors, the investment adviser will be primarily responsible for the execution of the publicly traded securities portion of our portfolio transactions and the allocation of brokerage commissions. The investment adviser does not expect to execute transactions through any particular broker or dealer, but will seek to obtain the best net results for Ares Capital, taking into account such factors as price (including the applicable brokerage commission or dealer spread), size of order, difficulty of execution, and operational facilities of the firm and the firm's risk and skill in positioning blocks of securities. While the investment adviser generally will seek reasonably competitive trade execution costs, Ares Capital will not necessarily pay the lowest spread or commission available. Subject to applicable legal requirements, the investment adviser may select a broker based partly upon brokerage or research services provided to the investment adviser and Ares Capital and any other clients. In return for such services, we may pay a higher commission than other brokers would charge if the investment adviser determines in good faith that such commission is reasonable in relation to the services provided.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may offer, from time to time, up to $250 million aggregate initial offering price of our common stock in one or more offerings. We may sell the shares of our common stock through underwriters or dealers, directly to one or more purchasers, through agents or through a combination of any such methods of sale. Any underwriter or agent involved in the offer and sale of the shares of our common stock will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The distribution of the shares of our common stock may be effected from time to time in one or more transactions at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed, at prevailing market prices at the time of sale, at prices related to such prevailing market prices, or at negotiated prices, provided, however, that the offering price per share of our common stock, less any underwriting commissions or discounts, must equal or exceed the net asset value per share of our common stock at the time of the offering.

In connection with the sale of the shares of our common stock, underwriters or agents may receive compensation from us or from purchasers of the shares of our common stock, for whom they may act as agents, in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions. Underwriters may sell shares of our common stock to or through dealers and such dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriters and/or commissions from the purchasers for whom they may act as agents. Underwriters, dealers and agents that participate in the distribution of shares of our common stock may be deemed to be underwriters under the Securities Act, and any discounts and commissions they receive from us and any profit realized by them on the resale of shares of our common stock may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. Any such underwriter or agent will be identified and any such compensation received from us will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Any common stock sold pursuant to a prospectus supplement will be quoted on NASDAQ, or another exchange on which the common stock is traded.

Under agreements that we may enter, underwriters, dealers and agents who participate in the distribution of shares of our common stock may be entitled to indemnification by us against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act. Underwriters, dealers and agents may engage in transactions with, or perform services for, us in the ordinary course of business.

If so indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will authorize underwriters or other persons acting as our agents to solicit offers by certain institutions to purchase shares of our common stock from us pursuant to contracts providing for payment and delivery on a future date. Institutions with which such contracts may be made include commercial and savings banks, insurance companies, pension funds, investment companies, educational and charitable institutions and others, but in all cases such institutions must be approved by us. The obligations of any purchaser under any such contract will be subject to the condition that the purchase of shares of our common stock shall not at the time of delivery be prohibited under the laws of the jurisdiction to which such purchaser is subject. The underwriters and such other agents will not have any responsibility in respect of the validity or performance of such contracts. Such contracts will be subject only to those conditions set forth in the prospectus supplement, and the prospectus supplement will set forth the commission payable for solicitation of such contracts.

We may enter into derivative transactions with third parties, or sell securities not covered by this prospectus to third parties in privately negotiated transactions. If the applicable prospectus supplement indicates, in connection with those derivatives, the third parties may sell securities covered by this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, including in short sale transactions. If so, the third party may use securities pledged by us or borrowed from us or others to settle those sales or to close out any related open borrowings of stock, and may use securities received from us in

settlement of those derivatives to close out any related open borrowings of stock. The third parties in such sale transactions will be underwriters and, if not identified in this prospectus, will be identified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The maximum commission or discount to be received by any member of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. or independent broker-dealer will not be greater than 10% for the sale of any securities being registered and 0.5% for due diligence.

In order to comply with the securities laws of certain states, if applicable, shares of our common stock offered hereby will be sold in such jurisdictions only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers.

LEGAL MATTERS

The legality of the securities offered hereby will be passed upon for Ares Capital by Venable LLP. Certain legal matters in connection with the offering will be passed upon for the underwriters, if any, by the counsel named in the prospectus supplement.

INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

KPMG LLP, located at 355 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90071, is the independent registered public accounting firm of Ares Capital.

AVAILABLE INFORMATION

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form N-2, together with all amendments and related exhibits, under the Securities Act of 1933, with respect to our shares of common stock offered by this prospectus. The registration statement contains additional information about us and our shares of common stock being offered by this prospectus.

We file with or submit to the SEC annual, quarterly and current periodic reports, proxy statements and other information meeting the informational requirements of the Exchange Act. You may inspect and copy these reports, proxy statements and other information, as well as the registration statement and related exhibits and schedules, at the Public Reference Room of the SEC at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC maintains an Internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information filed electronically by us with the SEC which are available on the SEC's Internet site at *http://www.sec.gov* . Copies of these reports, proxy and information statements and other information may be obtained, after paying a duplicating fee, by electronic request at the following e-mail address: *publicinfo@sec.gov* , or by writing the SEC's Public Reference Section, Washington, D.C. 20549-0102.

INDEX TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors and Stockholders
Ares Capital Corporation:

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Ares Capital Corporation (and subsidiary) (the Company) as of December 31, 2005 and 2004, including the consolidated schedule of investments as of December 31, 2005 and 2004, and the related consolidated statements of operations, stockholders' equity, and cash flows for the year ended December 31, 2005 and period from June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004, and the financial highlights for the year ended December 31, 2005 and for the period from June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004. These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements and financial highlights based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements and financial highlights referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Ares Capital Corporation (and subsidiary) as of December 31, 2005 and 2004, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for the year ended December 31, 2005 and period from June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2005, based on criteria established in Internal Control—Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO), and our report dated February 17, 2006 expressed an unqualified opinion on management's assessment of, and the effective operation of, internal control over financial reporting.

KPMG LLP

Los Angeles, CA
February 17, 2006

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors and Stockholders
Ares Capital Corporation:

We have audited management's assessment, included in the accompanying Annual Report , that Ares Capital Corporation (and subsidiary) (the Company) maintained effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2005, based on criteria established in Internal Control—Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). The Company's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on management's assessment and an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, evaluating management's assessment, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, management's assessment that Ares Capital Corporation (and subsidiary) maintained effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2005, is fairly stated, in all material respects, based on criteria established in Internal Control—Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). Also, in our opinion, Ares Capital Corporation (and subsidiary) maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2005, based on criteria established in Internal Control—Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO).

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheets of Ares Capital Corporation (and subsidiary) as of December 31, 2005 and 2004, and the related consolidated statements of operations, stockholders' equity and cash flows for year ended December 31, 2005 and period from June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004, and our report dated February 17, 2006 expressed an unqualified opinion on those consolidated financial statements.

KPMG LLP

Los Angeles, CA
February 17, 2006

ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARY

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

As of December 31, 2005 and December 31, 2004

	As of	
	December 31, 2005	December 31, 2004
ASSETS		
Investments at fair value (amortized cost of $581,351,865 and $182,329,200, respectively)		
Non-control/Non-affiliate investments	$ 515,184,991	$ 165,126,181
Affiliate investments	70,783,384	17,433,966
Total investments at fair value	585,968,375	182,560,147
Cash and cash equivalents	16,613,334	26,806,160
Receivable for open trades	1,581,752	8,794,478
Interest receivable	5,828,098	1,140,495
Other assets	3,653,585	1,154,334
Total assets	$ 613,645,144	$ 220,455,614
LIABILITIES		
Credit facility payable	$ 18,000,000	$ 55,500,000
Reimbursed underwriting costs payable to the Investment Adviser	2,475,000	—
Dividend payable	12,889,225	3,320,030
Payable for open trades	5,500,000	—
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	1,222,678	1,556,446
Management and incentive fees payable	3,478,034	274,657
Interest and facility fees payable	313,930	96,176
Interest payable to the Investment Adviser	154,078	—
Total liabilities	$ 44,032,945	$ 60,747,309
Commitments and contingencies (Note 7)		
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Common stock, par value $.001 per share, 100,000,000 common shares authorized, 37,909,484 and 11,066,767 common shares issued and outstanding, respectively	37,910	11,067
Capital in excess of par value	559,192,554	159,602,706
Distributions less than (in excess of) net investment income	—	(136,415)
Accumulated net realized gain on sale of investments	5,765,225	—
Net unrealized appreciation on investments	4,616,510	230,947
Total stockholders' equity	569,612,199	159,708,305
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	$ 613,645,144	$ 220,455,614
NET ASSETS PER SHARE	$ 15.03	$ 14.43

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARY
CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS
As of December 31, 2005

Company(1)	Industry	Investment	Interest(10)	Initial Acquisition Date	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Fair Value Per Unit	Percentage of Net Assets
Healthcare—Services								
American Renal Associates, Inc.	Dialysis provider	Senior secured loan ($3,426,230 par due 12/2010)	8.68% (Libor + 4.00%/Q)	12/14/05	$ 3,426,230	$ 3,426,230	$ 1.00	
		Senior secured loan ($180,328 par due 12/2010)	8.50% (Libor + 4.00%/Q)	12/14/05	180,328	180,328	$ 1.00	
		Senior secured loan ($5,886,885 par due 12/2011)	9.18% (Libor + 4.50%/Q)	12/14/05	5,886,885	5,886,885	$ 1.00	
		Senior secured loan ($14,754 par due 12/2011)	9.00% (Libor + 4.50%/Q)	12/14/05	14,754	14,754	$ 1.00	
		Senior secured loan ($7,213,115 par due 12/2011)	11.68% (Libor + 7.00%/Q)	12/14/05	7,213,115	7,213,115	$ 1.00	
Capella Healthcare, Inc.	Acute care hospital operator	Junior secured loan ($29,000,000 par due 11/2013)	10.45% (Libor + 6.00%/Q)	12/1/05	29,000,000	29,000,000	$ 1.00	
PHNS, Inc.	Information technology and business process outsourcing	Senior subordinated loan ($16,000,000 par due 11/2011)	13.50% cash, 2.5% PIK	10/29/04	15,785,661	16,000,000	$ 1.00(3)	
Triad Laboratory Alliance, LLC	Laboratory services	Senior subordinated loan ($9,714,888 par due 12/2012)	12.00% cash, 1.75% PIK	12/21/05	9,714,888	9,714,888	$ 1.00(3)	
		Senior secured loan ($3,000,000 par due 12/2011)	7.78% (Libor + 3.25%/Q)	12/21/05	3,000,000	3,000,000	$ 1.00	
					$ 74,221,861	$ 74,436,200		13.07%
Containers—Packaging								
Captive Plastics, Inc.	Plastics container manufacturer	Junior secured loan ($16,000,000 par due 2/2012)	11.62% (Libor + 7.25%/M)	12/19/05	$ 16,000,000	$ 16,000,000	$ 1.00	
Industrial Container Services, LLC(7)	Industrial container manufacturer, reconditioner and servicer	Senior secured loan ($26,728,663 par due 9/2011)	11.00% (Libor + 6.50%/Q)	9/30/05	26,728,663	26,728,663	$ 1.00	
		Senior secured loan ($4,643,479 par due 9/2011)	8.88% (Libor + 4.50%/M)	9/30/05	4,643,479	4,643,479	$ 1.00	
		Senior secured revolving loan ($1,160,870 par due 9/2011)	10.25% (Base Rate + 3.00%/Q)	9/30/05	1,160,870	1,160,870	$ 1.00	
		Senior secured revolving loan ($541,739 par due 9/2011)	10.25% (Base Rate + 3.00%/Q)	9/30/05	541,739	541,739	$ 1.00	
		Common stock (1,800,000 shares)		9/29/05	1,800,000	1,800,000	$ 1.00(4)	
York Label Holdings, Inc.	Consumer product labels manufacturer	Senior subordinated loan ($10,368,791 par due 2/2010)	10.00% cash, 4.00% PIK	11/3/04	10,362,901	10,368,791	$ 1.00(2) (3)	
		Preferred stock (650 shares)	10.00%	11/3/04	3,742,445	3,742,445	$ 5,757.61(3)	
		Warrants to purchase 156,000 shares		11/3/04	5,320,409	5,320,408	$ 34.11(4)	

					$ 70,300,506	$ 70,306,395		12.34%
Services—Other								
Diversified Collection Services, Inc.	Collections services	Senior secured loan ($6,300,000 par due 2/2011)	8.38% (Libor + 4.00%/M)	2/2/05	$ 6,300,000	$ 6,300,000	$ 1.00(2)	
		Senior secured loan ($8,500,000 par due 8/2011)	10.00% (Libor + 6.00%/Q)	2/2/05	8,500,000	8,500,000	$ 1.00(2)	
		Preferred stock (114,004 shares)		2/2/05	295,270	295,270	$ 2.59(4)	
Event Rentals, Inc.	Party rental services	Senior secured loan ($2,676,136 par due 11/2011)	9.91% (Libor + 5.25%/S)	11/17/05	2,676,136	2,676,136	$ 1.00	
		Senior secured loan ($2,897,727 par due 11/2011)	9.92% (Libor + 5.25% Q)	11/17/05	2,897,727	2,897,727	$ 1.00	
		Senior secured loan ($170,455 par due 11/2011)	11.50% (Base Rate + 4.25%/D)	11/17/05	170,455	170,455	$ 1.00	
		Senior secured loan ($8,011,363 par due 11/2011)	9.91% (Libor + 5.25%/S)	11/17/05	8,011,363	8,011,363	$ 1.00	
GCA Services, Inc.	Custodial services	Senior subordinated loan ($32,743,750 par due 1/2010)	12.00% cash, 3.00% PIK	7/25/05	32,743,750	32,743,750	$ 1.00(3)	
Miller Heiman, Inc.	Sales consulting services	Senior secured loan ($4,521,687 par due 6/2010)	8.14% (Libor + 3.75%/M)	6/20/05	4,521,687	4,521,687	$ 1.00(2)	
		Senior secured loan ($4,058,379 par due 6/2012)	8.78% (Libor + 4.25%/Q)	6/20/05	4,058,379	4,058,379	$ 1.00(2)	
					$ 70,174,767	$ 70,174,767		12.32%

Mactec, Inc.	Engineering and environmental consulting services	Common stock (186 shares)		11/3/04	$ —	$ —	$	0.00(4)
United Site Services, Inc.	Portable restroom and site services	Senior secured loan ($5,061,957 par due 8/2011)	7.37% (Libor + 3.00%/M)	9/14/05	5,061,957	5,061,957	$	1.00
		Senior secured loan ($3,043,478 par due 8/2011)	7.41% (Libor + 3.00%/Q)	9/14/05	3,043,478	3,043,478	$	1.00
		Senior secured loan ($1,869,565 par due 8/2011)	7.28% (Libor + 3.00%/Q)	9/14/05	1,869,565	1,869,565	$	1.00
		Junior secured loan ($13,461,538 par due 6/2010)	12.44% (Libor + 8.00%/Q)	12/1/04	13,419,063	13,461,538	$	1.00(2)
		Common stock (216,795 shares)		10/8/04	1,353,851	1,353,851	$	6.24(4)
Wastequip, Inc.	Waste management equipment manufacturer	Junior secured loan ($15,000,000 par due 7/2012)	10.53% (Libor + 6.00%/Q)	8/4/05	15,000,000	15,000,000	$	1.00
WCA Waste Systems, Inc.	Waste management services	Junior secured loan ($25,000,000 par due 10/2011)	10.53% (Libor + 6.00%/Q)	4/25/05	25,000,000	25,000,000	$	1.00(2)
					$ 64,747,914	$ 64,790,389		11.37%
Restaurants								
CICQ, LP	Restaurant franchisor, owner and operator	Limited partnership interest (26.5% interest)		8/15/05	$ 53,000,000	$ 62,284,540		
					$ 53,000,000	$ 62,284,540		10.93%
Manufacturing								
Arrow Group Industries, Inc.	Residential and outdoor shed manufacturer	Senior secured loan ($6,000,000 par due 4/2010)	9.53% (Libor + 5.00%/Q)	3/28/05	$ 6,040,153	$ 6,000,000	$	1.00
		Senior secured loan ($6,000,000 par due 10/2010)	14.03% (Libor + 9.50%/Q)	3/28/05	6,000,000	6,000,000	$	1.00
Qualitor, Inc.	Automotive aftermarket components supplier	Senior secured loan ($827,059 par due 12/2011)	8.27% (Libor + 4.00%/Q)	12/29/04	827,059	827,059	$	1.00(2)
		Senior secured loan ($1,152,941 par due 12/2011)	8.53% (Libor + 4.00%/Q)	12/29/04	1,152,941	1,152,941	$	1.00(2)
		Junior secured loan ($5,000,000 par due 6/2012)	11.53% (Libor + 7.00%/Q)	12/29/04	5,000,000	5,000,000	$	1.00(2)
Reflexite Corporation	Developer and manufacturer of high visibility reflective products	Senior subordinated loan ($10,304,329 par due 12/2011)	11.00% cash, 3.00% PIK	12/30/04	10,304,329	10,304,329	$	1.00(2) (3)
Universal Trailer Corporation(5)	Livestock and specialty trailer manufacturer	Senior secured loan ($1,048,960 par due 3/2007)	8.39% (Libor + 4.00%/M)	10/8/04	1,054,725	1,054,725	$	1.01
		Senior subordinated loan ($7,500,000 par due 9/2008)	13.50%	10/8/04	7,522,762	7,528,881	$	1.00
		Common stock (50,000 shares)		10/8/04	6,424,645	3,113,351	$	62.27(4)
		Warrants to purchase 22,208 shares		10/8/04	1,505,776	1,382,826	$	62.27(4)
Varel Holdings, Inc.	Drill bit manufacturer	Senior secured loan ($6,643,750 par due 12/2010)	8.58% (Libor + 4.00%/S)	5/18/05	6,643,750	6,643,750	$	1.00(2)
		Senior secured loan ($2,333,333 par due 12/2010)	8.47% (Libor + 4.00%/Q)	5/18/05	2,333,333	2,333,333	$	1.00(2)
		Senior secured loan ($3,333,333 par due 12/2011)	12.48% (Libor + 8.00%/Q)	5/18/05	3,333,333	3,333,333	$	1.00(2)
		Preferred stock		5/18/05	1,046,568	1,046,568	$	34.37(3)

		(30,451 shares)						
		Common stock (30,451 shares)		5/18/05	3,045	3,045	$ 0.10(4)	
					$ 59,192,419	$ 55,724,141		9.78%
Consumer Products—Non-Durable								
Making Memories Wholesale, Inc.(6)	Scrapbooking branded products manufacturer	Senior secured loan ($9,143,750 par due 3/2011)	8.50% (Libor + 4.00%/Q)	5/5/05	$ 9,143,750	$ 9,143,750	$ 1.00(2)	
		Senior subordinated loan ($10,000,000 par due 5/2012)	12.00% cash, 2.50% PIK	5/5/05	10,000,000	10,000,000	$ 1.00(3)	
		Preferred stock (3,500 shares)		5/5/05	3,685,100	3,685,100	$ 1,052.89(3)	
Shoes for Crews, LLC	Safety footwear and slip-related mats manufacturer	Senior secured loan ($1,478,167 par due 7/2010)	9.00% (Base Rate + 1.75%/D)	10/8/04	1,486,865	1,486,865	$ 1.01(2)	
		Senior secured loan ($47,247 par due 7/2010)	7.78% (Libor + 3.25%/Q)	10/8/04	47,525	47,525	$ 1.01(2)	
Tumi Holdings, Inc.	Branded luggage designer, marketer and distributor	Senior secured loan ($2,500,000 par due 12/2012)	7.28% (Libor + 2.75%/Q)	5/24/05	2,500,000	2,500,000	$ 1.00(2)	
		Senior secured loan ($5,000,000 par due 12/2013)	7.78% (Libor + 3.25%/Q)	3/14/05	5,000,000	5,000,000	$ 1.00(2)	

		Senior subordinated loan ($13,008,799 par due 12/2014)	15.53% (Libor + 6.00% cash, 5.00% PIK/Q)	3/14/05	13,008,799	13,008,799	$ 1.00(2)(3)	
					$ 44,872,039	$ 44,872,039		7.88%
Education								
Lakeland Finance, LLC	Private school operator	Senior secured note ($33,000,000 par due 12/2012)	11.50%	12/13/05	$ 33,000,000	$ 33,000,000	$ 1.00	
					$ 33,000,000	$ 33,000,000		5.79%
Consumer Products—Durable								
AWTP, LLC	Water treatment services	Junior secured loan ($13,600,000 par due 12/2012)	13.50% (Base Rate + 6.25%/Q)	12/21/05	$ 13,600,000	$ 13,600,000	$ 1.00	
Berkline/Benchcraft Holdings LLC	Furniture manufacturer and distributor	Junior secured loan ($5,000,000 par due 5/2012)	14.05% (Libor + 10.00%/Q)	11/3/04	5,000,000	4,500,000	$ 0.90(2)	
		Preferred stock (2,536 shares)		10/8/04	1,046,343	677,643	$ 267.21(4)	
		Warrants to purchase 483,020 shares		10/8/04	2,752,559	1,782,640	$ 3.69(4)	
					$ 22,398,902	$ 20,560,283		3.61%
Financial								
Foxe Basin CLO 2003, Ltd.	Collateralized debt obligation	Preference shares (3,000 shares)		10/8/04	$ 2,743,440	$ 2,743,440	$ 914.48(8)(9)	
Hudson Straits CLO 2004, Ltd.	Collateralized debt obligation	Preference shares (5,750 shares)		10/8/04	5,217,331	5,143,121	$ 894.46(8)(9)	
MINCS-Glace Bay, Ltd.	Collateralized debt obligation	Secured notes ($9,500,000 par due 7/2014)	7.79% (Libor + 3.60%/Q)	10/8/04	9,019,819	9,500,000	$ 1.00(8)(9)	
					$ 16,980,590	$ 17,386,561		3.05%
Printing, Publishing and Broadcasting								
Canon Communications LLC	Print publications services	Junior secured loan ($16,250,000 par due 11/2011)	12.03% (Libor + 7.50%/Q)	5/25/05	$ 16,250,000	$ 16,250,000	$ 1.00(2)	
					$ 16,250,000	$ 16,250,000		2.85%
Aerospace & Defense								
ILC Industries, Inc.	Industrial products provider	Junior secured loan ($6,500,000 par due 8/2012)	10.28% (Libor + 5.75%/Q)	8/30/05	$ 6,529,232	$ 6,500,000	$ 1.00	
Thermal Solutions LLC	Thermal management and electronics packaging manufacturer	Senior secured loan ($5,973,529 par due 3/2011)	9.71% (Libor + 5.25%/Q)	3/28/05	5,973,529	5,973,529	$ 1.00(2)	
		Senior subordinated loan ($3,062,766 par due 3/2012)	11.50% cash, 2.75% PIK	3/28/05	3,067,225	3,062,766	$ 1.00(2)(3)	
		Preferred stock (29,400 shares)		3/28/05	294,000	294,000	$ 10.00(4)	
		Common stock (600,000 shares)		3/28/05	6,000	6,000	$ 0.01(4)	
					$ 15,869,986	$ 15,836,295		2.78%
Cargo Transport								
Kenan Advantage Group, Inc.	Fuel transportation provider	Senior subordinated loan ($8,870,968 par due 12/2013)	13.00%	12/15/05	$ 8,870,968	$ 8,870,968	$ 1.00	
		Senior secured loan ($2,500,000	7.50% (Libor + 3.00%/Q)	12/15/05	2,500,000	2,500,000	$ 1.00	

		par due 12/2011)						
		Preferred stock (10,984 shares)		12/15/05	1,098,400	1,098,400	$ 100.00(4)	
		Common stock (30,575 shares)		12/15/05	30,575	30,575	$ 1.00(4)	
					$ 12,499,943	$ 12,499,943		2.19%
Farming and Agriculture								
The GSI Group, Inc.	Agricultural equipment manufacturer	Senior notes ($10,000,000 par due 5/2013)	12.00%	5/11/05	$ 10,000,000	$ 10,000,000	$ 1.00	
		Common stock (7,500 shares)		5/12/05	750,000	750,000	$ 100.00(4)	
					$ 10,750,000	$ 10,750,000		1.89%
Housing—Building Materials								
HB&G Building Products	Synthetic and wood product manufacturer	Senior subordinated loan ($8,439,529 par due 3/2011)	13.00% cash, 4.00% PIK	10/8/04	$ 8,435,645	$ 8,439,529	$ 1.00(2) (3)	
		Common stock (2,743 shares)		10/8/04	752,888	752,888	$ 274.48(4)	
		Warrants to purchase 4,464 shares		10/8/04	652,503	652,503	$ 146.17(4)	
					$ 9,841,036	$ 9,844,920		1.73%

Cable Television								
Patriot Media & Communications CNJ, LLC	Cable services	Junior secured loan ($5,000,000 par due 10/2013)	9.50% (Libor + 5.00%/Q)	10/6/05	$ 5,000,000	$ 5,000,000	$ 1.00	
					$ 5,000,000	$ 5,000,000		0.88%
Healthcare—Medical Products								
Aircast, Inc.	Manufacturer of orthopedic braces, supports and vascular systems	Senior secured loan ($1,251,902 par due 12/2010)	7.20% (Libor + 2.75%/Q)	12/2/04	$ 1,251,902	$ 1,251,902	$ 1.00(2)	
		Junior secured loan ($1,000,000 par due 6/2011)	11.45% (Libor + 7.00%/Q)	12/2/04	1,000,000	1,000,000	$ 1.00(2)	
					$ 2,251,902	$ 2,251,902		0.40%
Total					$ 581,351,865	$ 585,968,375		

(1) We do not "Control" any of our portfolio companies, as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940. In general, under the 1940 Act, we would "Control" a portfolio company if we owned 25% or more of its voting securities. All of our portfolio company investments are subject to legal restriction on sales which as of December 31, 2005 represented 103% of the Company's net assets.

(2) Pledged as collateral for the credit facility payable (see Note 8 to the consolidated financial statements).

(3) Has a payment-in-kind interest feature (see Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements).

(4) Non-income producing at December 31, 2005.

(5) As defined in the 1940 Act, we are an "Affiliate" of this portfolio company because we own more than 5% of the portfolio company's outstanding voting securities. For the year ended December 31, 2005, for this portfolio company there were total purchases of $2,000,000, redemptions of $2,919,939 (cost), interest income of $1,147,137, other income of $143,667, net realized losses of $4,278 and net unrealized losses of $3,429,198.

(6) As defined in the 1940 Act, we are an "Affiliate" of this portfolio company because we own more than 5% of the portfolio company's outstanding voting securities. For the year ended December 31, 2005, for this portfolio company there were total purchases of $26,000,000, sales of $3,000,000 (cost), redemptions of $237,500 (cost), interest income of $1,514,431, capital structuring services fees of $862,500 and other income of $2,068.

(7) As defined in the 1940 Act, we are an "Affiliate" of this portfolio company because we own more than 5% of the portfolio company's outstanding voting securities. For the year ended December 31, 2005, for this portfolio company there were total purchases of $54,647,808, total sales of $19,000,000 (cost), redemptions of $706,069 (cost) interest income of $943,631, capital structuring services fees of $1,058,750 and other income of $44,426.

(8) Non-U.S. company or principal place of business outside the U.S.

(9) Non-registered investment company.

(10) A majority of the variable rate loans to our portfolio companies bear interest at a rate that may be determined by reference to either Libor or an alternate Base Rate (commonly based on the Federal Funds Rate or the Prime Rate), at the borrower's option, which reset semi-annually (S), quarterly (Q), monthly (M) or daily (D). For each such loan, we have provided the current interest rate in effect at December 31, 2005.

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements

ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARY

CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS

As of December 31, 2004

Company(1)	Industry	Investment	Interest(9)	Initial Acquisition Date	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Fair Value Per Unit	Percentage of Net Assets
Manufacturing								
Qualitor, Inc.	Automotive aftermarket components supplier	Senior secured loan ($2,000,000 par due 12/2009)	8.00% (Base Rate + 2.75%/M)	12/29/04	$ 2,000,000	$ 2,000,000	$ 1.00(2)	
		Junior secured loan ($5,000,000 par due 6/2012)	11.00% (Base Rate + 5.75%/M)	12/29/04	5,000,000	5,000,000	$ 1.00 (2)	
Reflexite Corporation	Developer and manufacturer of high visibility reflective products	Senior subordinated loan ($10,000,833 par due 12/2011)	11.00% cash, 3.00% PIK	12/30/04	10,000,833	10,000,833	$ 1.00(2) (3)	
Universal Trailer Corporation(5)	Livestock and specialty trailer manufacturer	Senior secured loan ($1,963,872 par due 3/2007)	6.42% (Libor + 4.00%/M)(10)	10/8/04	1,974,665	1,974,665	$ 1.01	
		Senior subordinated loan ($7,500,000 par due 9/2008)	13.50%	10/8/04	7,527,808	7,528,880	$ 1.00	
		Common stock (50,000 shares)		10/8/04	6,424,645	6,424,645	$ 128.49(4)	
		Warrants to purchase 22,208 shares		10/8/04	1,505,776	1,505,776	$ 67.80(4)	
					$ 34,433,727	$ 34,434,799		21.56%
Consumer Products—Non-Durable								
Esselte Corporation	Office supply products manufacturer and distributor	Senior notes ($6,777,000 par due 3/2011)	7.63%	12/6/04	$ 6,060,352	$ 5,997,645	$ 0.89(6) (7)	
Reef Holdings, Inc.	Shoe designer, marketer and distributor	Senior secured loan ($17,500,000 par due 12/2009)	12.50% (Base Rate + 7.25%/Q)	12/21/04	17,500,000	17,500,000	$ 1.00(2)	
		Common stock (47,118 shares)		10/8/04	2,258,666	2,258,666	$ 47.94(4)	
		Warrants to purchase 27,043 shares		10/8/04	752,888	752,888	$ 27.84(4)	
Shoes for Crews, LLC	Safety footwear and slip-related mats manufacturer	Senior secured loan ($1,721,154 par due 7/2010)	6.75% (Base Rate + 2.00%/Q)	10/8/04	1,731,282	1,731,282	$ 1.01(2)	
		Senior secured revolving loan ($333,333 par due 7/2010)	6.75% (Base Rate + 2.00%/Q)	10/8/04	334,617	334,617	$ 1.00	
					$ 28,637,805	$ 28,575,098		17.89%
Services—Other								
Billing Concepts, Inc.	Billing clearinghouse services	Senior secured loan ($10,000,000 par due 12/2005)	10.63% (Libor + 8.50%/Q)	10/8/04	$ 10,042,007	$ 10,042,007	$ 1.00	
		Senior subordinated	14.00% cash, 4.00% PIK	10/8/04	5,231,589	5,232,490	$ 1.00(2) (3)	

		loan ($5,212,619 par due 6/2008)						
		Common stock (1,100 shares)		10/8/04	150,578	150,578	$ 136.89(4)	
Diversified Collection Services, Inc.	Collections services	Senior secured loan ($4,017,391 par due 1/2009)	6.02% (Libor + 4.00%/Q)	10/8/04	4,036,107	4,036,107	$ 1.00(2)	
		Senior subordinated loan ($2,052,321 par due 7/2010)	12.00% cash, 3.75% PIK	10/8/04	2,059,964	2,060,150	$ 1.00(2)(3)	
		Preferred stock (114,004 shares)	10/8/04	483,709	483,709	$ 4.24(4)		
					$ 22,003,954	$ 22,005,041		13.78%
Forest Products/Containers—Packaging								
FlexSol Packaging Corporation	Manufacturer of value-added plastic and flexible packaging	Senior secured loan ($1,000,000 par due 12/2012)	5.78% (Libor + 3.25%/Q)	12/7/04	$ 1,000,000	$ 1,000,000	$ 1.00(2)	
		Junior secured loan ($2,000,000 par due 12/2012)	9.53% (Libor + 7.00%/Q)	12/7/04	2,000,000	2,000,000	$ 1.00(2)	
York Label Holdings, Inc.	Consumer product labels manufacturer	Senior subordinated loan ($9,897,956 par due 2/2010)	10.00% cash, 4.00% PIK	11/3/04	9,934,660	9,935,689	$ 1.00(2)(3)	
		Preferred stock (650 shares)	10.00%	11/3/04	3,387,069	3,387,069	$ 5,210.88(3)	
		Warrants to purchase 156,000 shares		11/3/04	5,320,408	5,320,408	$ 34.11(4)	
					$ 21,642,137	$ 21,643,166		13.55%
Environmental Services								
Mactec, Inc.	Engineering and environmental consulting services	Common stock (186 shares)		11/3/04	$ —	$ —	$ 0.00(4)	
United Site Services, Inc.	Portable restroom and site services	Junior secured loan ($10,000,000 par due 6/2010)	10.41% (Libor + 8.00%/Q)	12/2/04	9,950,512	10,000,000	$ 1.00(2)	

		Senior subordinated loan ($8,456,734 par due 12/2010)	12.00% cash, 4.00% PIK	10/8/04	8,571,374	8,574,034	$ 1.01(3)	
		Common stock (216,795 shares)		10/8/04	1,353,851	1,353,851	$ 6.24(4)	
					$ 19,875,737	$ 19,927,885		12.48%
Healthcare—Services								
PHNS, Inc.	Information technology and business process outsourcing	Senior subordinated loan ($16,000,000 par due 11/2011)	11.50% cash, 2.25% PIK	11/1/04	$ 15,763,394	$ 16,000,000	$ 1.00(3)	
					$ 15,763,394	$ 16,000,000		10.02%
Energy—Service & Equipment								
Mechanical Dynamics & Analysis	Steam power generator repair services	Senior subordinated loan ($10,654,348 par due 3/2010)	13.00% cash, 5.00% PIK	10/8/04	$ 10,693,629	$ 10,694,664	$ 1.00(2) (3)	
		Warrants to purchase 4,067 shares		10/8/04	150,578	150,578	$ 37.02(4)	
					$ 10,844,207	$ 10,845,242		6.79%
Housing—Building Materials								
HB&G Building Products	Synthetic and wood product manufacturer	Senior subordinated loan ($8,112,135 par due 3/2011)	10.00% cash, 5.00% PIK	10/8/04	$ 8,142,178	$ 8,142,855	$ 1.00(3)	
		Common stock (2,743 shares)		10/8/04	752,888	752,888	$ 274.48(4)	
		Warrants to purchase 4,464 shares		10/8/04	652,503	652,503	$ 146.17(4)	
					$ 9,547,569	$ 9,548,246		5.98%
Consumer Products—Durable								
Berkline/Benchcraft Holdings LLC	Furniture manufacturer and distributor	Junior secured loan ($5,000,000 par due 5/2012)	10.50% (Libor + 8.00%/Q)	11/3/04	$ 5,000,000	$ 5,000,000	$ 1.00(2)	
		Preferred stock (2,536 shares)		10/8/04	1,046,343	1,046,343	$ 412.60(4)	
		Warrants to purchase 483,020 shares		10/8/04	2,752,559	2,752,559	$ 5.70(4)	
					$ 8,798,902	$ 8,798,902		5.51%
Financial								
Foxe Basin CLO 2003, Ltd.	Collateralized debt obligation	Preference shares (3,000 shares)		10/8/04	$ 3,011,552	$ 3,011,552	$ 1,003.85(7) (8)	
Hudson Straits CLO 2004, Ltd.	Collateralized debt obligation	Preference shares (750 shares)		10/8/04	752,888	752,888	$ 1,003.85(7) (8)	
MINCS-Glace Bay, Ltd.	Collateralized debt obligation	Secured notes ($4,500,000 par due 7/2014)	6.63% (Libor + 5.00%/Q)	10/8/04	4,517,328	4,517,328	$ 1.00(7) (8)	
					$ 8,281,768	$ 8,281,768		5.19%
Healthcare—Medical Products								
Aircast, Inc.	Manufacturer of orthopedic braces, supports and	Senior secured loan ($1,500,000	5.19% (Libor + 2.75%/Q)	12/21/04	$ 1,500,000	$ 1,500,000	$ 1.00(2)	

	vascular systems	par due 12/2010)					
		Junior secured loan ($1,000,000 par due 6/2011)	9.44% (Libor + 7.00%/Q)	12/21/04	1,000,000	1,000,000	$ 1.00(2)
					$ 2,500,000	$ 2,500,000	1.57%
Total					$ 182,329,200	$ 182,560,147	

(1) We do not "Control" any of our portfolio companies, as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940. In general, under the 1940 Act, we would "Control" a portfolio company if we owned 25% or more of its voting securities. All of our portfolio company investments are subject to legal restriction on sales which as of December 31, 2004 represented 114% of the Company's net assets.

(2) Pledged as collateral for the credit facility payable (see Note 8 to the consolidated financial statements).

(3) Has a payment-in-kind interest feature (see Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements).

(4) Non-income producing at December 31, 2004.

(5) As defined in the 1940 Act, we are an "Affiliate" of this portfolio company because we own more than 5% of the portfolio company's outstanding voting securities. For the period from June 23, 2004 through December 31, 2004, for this portfolio company there were total purchases of $17,598,522, a redemption of $164,555 (cost), interest income of $285,059, other income of $5,833 and net realized losses of $899.

(6) Principal amount denominated in Euros has been translated into U.S. dollars (see Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements).

(7) Non-U.S. company or principal place of business outside the U.S.

(8) Non-registered investment company.

(9) A majority of the variable rate loans to our portfolio companies bear interest at a rate that may be determined by reference to either Libor or an alternate Base Rate (commonly based on the Federal Funds Rate or the Prime Rate), at the borrower's option, which reset quarerly (Q) or monthly (M). For each such loan, we have provided the current interest rate in effect at December 31, 2004.

(10) At December 31, 2004, a portion of this loan equal to $3,873 was earning interest at a rate of 8.25% which is equal to Base Rate plus 3.50%, resetting monthly.

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARY

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

	For the Year Ended December 31, 2005	For the Period June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004
INVESTMENT INCOME:		
From non-control/non-affiliate investments:		
Interest from investments	$ 30,360,311	$ 3,289,259
Interest from cash & cash equivalents	1,457,830	39,325
Dividend income	744,818	191,130
Capital structuring service fees	3,314,440	542,353
Other income	256,467	27,889
Total investment income from non-control/non-affiliate investments	36,133,866	4,089,956
From affiliate investments:		
Interest from investments	3,605,200	285,059
Capital structuring service fees	1,921,250	—
Other income	190,161	5,833
Total investment income from affiliate investments	5,716,611	290,892
Total investment income	41,850,477	4,380,848
EXPENSES:		
Organizational expenses	—	199,183
Base management fees	5,147,492	471,565
Incentive management fees	4,202,078	95,471
Administrative	888,081	135,941
Professional fees	1,398,125	336,187
Directors fees	309,536	119,966
Insurance	630,513	161,855
Interest and credit facility fees	1,062,662	96,176
Interest payable to the Investment Adviser	154,078	—
Amortization of debt issuance costs	465,398	41,220
Other	468,714	8,189
Total expenses	14,726,677	1,665,753
NET INVESTMENT INCOME	27,123,800	2,715,095
REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN ON INVESTMENTS:		
Net realized gains (losses):		
Net realized gains from non-control/non-affiliate investment transactions	10,345,991	245,345
Net realized losses from affiliate investment transactions	(4,278)	(899)
Net realized gains from investment transactions	10,341,713	244,446
Net unrealized gains (losses):		
Investment transactions from non-control/non-affiliate investments	7,814,761	229,875
Investment transactions from affiliate investments	(3,429,198)	1,072
Net unrealized gains from investment transactions	4,385,563	230,947
Net realized and unrealized gain on investments	14,727,276	475,393
NET INCREASE IN STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS	$ 41,851,076	$ 3,190,488
BASIC AND DILUTED EARNINGS PER COMMON SHARE (see Note 4)	$ 1.78	$ 0.29

WEIGHTED AVERAGE SHARES OF COMMON STOCK OUTSTANDING (see Note 4)	23,487,935	11,066,767

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARY

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

For the Year Ended December 31, 2005 and the for the Period June 23, 2004

(inception) through December 31, 2004

	Common Stock		Capital in Excess of Par Value	Distributions Less Than (in Excess of) Net Investment income	Accumulated Net Realized Gain on Sale of Investments	Net Unrealized Appreciation on Investments	Total Stockholders' Equity
	Shares	Amount					
Balance at June 23, 2004	100	$ —	$ 1,500	$ —	$ —	$ —	$ 1,500
Issuance of common stock	11,066,667	11,067	165,988,938	—	—	—	166,000,005
Gross offering and underwriting costs	—	—	(8,638,658)	—	—	—	(8,638,658)
Underwriting costs paid by the Investment Adviser (see Note 10)			2,475,000				2,475,000
Net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations	—	—	—	2,715,095	244,446	230,947	3,190,488
Dividend declared ($0.28 per share)	—	—	—	(2,851,510)	(244,446)	—	(3,095,956)
Tax return of capital ($0.02 per share)	—	—	(224,074)	—			(224,074)
Balance at December 31, 2004	11,066,767	$ 11,067	$ 159,602,706	$ (136,415)	$ —	$ 230,947	$ 159,708,305
Issuance of common stock from add-on offerings (net of offering and underwriting costs)	26,575,000	26,575	397,373,747				397,400,322
Reimbursement of underwriting costs paid by the Investment Adviser (see Note 10)			(2,475,000)				(2,475,000)
Shares issued in connection with dividend reinvestment plan	267,717	268	4,691,101				4,691,369
Net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations				27,123,800	10,341,713	4,385,563	41,851,076
Dividend declared ($1.30 per share)				(26,987,385)	(4,576,488)		(31,563,873)
Balance at December 31, 2005	37,909,484	$ 37,910	$ 559,192,554	$ —	$ 5,765,225	$ 4,616,510	$ 569,612,199

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARY

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	For the Year Ended December 31, 2005	For the Period June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004
OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations	$ 41,851,076	$ 3,190,488
Adjustments to reconcile net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations:		
Realized gain on investment transactions	(10,341,713)	(244,446)
Unrealized gain on investment transactions	(4,385,563)	(230,947)
Net accretion of discount on securities	(85,899)	9,091
Increase in accrued payment-in-kind dividends and interest	(3,113,035)	(508,762)
Amortization of debt issuance costs	465,398	41,220
Proceeds from sale and redemption of investments	126,029,440	53,480,443
Purchases of investments	(498,798,732)	(243,860,004)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Interest receivable	(4,687,603)	(1,140,495)
Other assets	(147,207)	(417,331)
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	(333,768)	1,556,446
Management and incentive fees payable	3,203,377	274,657
Interest and facility fees payable	217,754	96,176
Interest payable to the Investment Adviser	154,078	—
Net cash used in operating activities	(349,972,397)	(187,753,464)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Net proceeds from issuance of common stock	397,400,322	159,836,347
Borrowings on credit facility payable	123,500,000	55,500,000
Repayments on credit facility payable	(161,000,000)	—
Credit facility financing costs	(2,817,442)	(778,223)
Dividends paid in cash	(17,303,309)	—
Net cash provided by financing activities	339,779,571	214,558,124
CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(10,192,826)	26,804,660
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF PERIOD	26,806,160	1,500
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF PERIOD	$ 16,613,334	$ 26,806,160
Supplemental Information:		
Interest paid during the period	$ 638,204	$ —
Dividends declared during the period	$ 31,563,873	$ 3,320,030

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARY

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As of December 31, 2005

1. ORGANIZATION

Ares Capital Corporation (the "Company" or "ARCC" or "we") is a closed-end, non-diversified management investment company incorporated in Maryland that is regulated as a business development company under the Investment Company Act of 1940 ("1940 Act"). We were incorporated on April 16, 2004 and were initially funded on June 23, 2004. On October 8, 2004, we completed our initial public offering (the "IPO"). On the same date, we commenced substantial investment operations.

The Company has qualified and has elected to be treated for tax purposes as a regulated investment company, or RIC, under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. The Company expects to continue to qualify and to elect to be treated for tax purposes as a RIC. Our investment objectives are to generate both current income and capital appreciation through debt and equity investments. We invest primarily in first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt, which in some cases may include an equity component, and, to a lesser extent, in equity investments in private middle market companies.

We are externally managed by Ares Capital Management LLC (the "Investment Adviser"), an affiliate of Ares Management LLC ("Ares Management"), an independent Los Angeles based firm that manages investment funds. Ares Technical Administration LLC ("Ares Administration"), an affiliate of Ares Management, provides the administrative services necessary for us to operate.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Presentation

The accompanying consolidated financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, and include the accounts of the Company and its wholly-owned subsidiary. The consolidated financial statements reflect all adjustments and reclassifications which, in the opinion of management, are necessary for the fair presentation of the results of the operations and financial condition for the periods presented. All significant intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include short-term, liquid investments in a money market fund. Cash and cash equivalents are carried at cost which approximates fair value.

Concentration of Credit Risk

The Company places its cash and cash equivalents with financial institutions and, at times, cash held in money market accounts may exceed the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation insured limit.

Investments

Investment transactions are recorded on the trade date. Realized gains or losses are computed using the specific identification method. We carry our investments at fair value, as determined by our board of directors. Investments for which market quotations are readily available are valued at such market quotations. Debt and equity securities that are not publicly traded or whose market price is not

readily available are valued at fair value as determined in good faith by our board of directors. The types of factors that we may take into account in fair value pricing of our investments include, as relevant, the nature and realizable value of any collateral, the portfolio company's ability to make payments and its earnings and discounted cash flow, the markets in which the portfolio company does business, comparison to publicly traded securities and other relevant factors.

When an external event such as a purchase transaction, public offering or subsequent equity sale occurs, we use the pricing indicated by the external event to corroborate our private equity valuation. Because there is not a readily available market value for most of the investments in our portfolio, we value substantially all of our portfolio investments at fair value as determined in good faith by our board under a valuation policy and a consistently applied valuation process. Due to the inherent uncertainty of determining the fair value of investments that do not have a readily available market value, the fair value of our investments may differ significantly from the values that would have been used had a ready market existed for such investments, and the differences could be material.

With respect to investments for which market quotations are not readily available, our board of directors undertakes a multi-step valuation process each quarter, as described below:

- Our quarterly valuation process begins with each portfolio company or investment being initially valued by the investment professionals responsible for the portfolio investment.
- Preliminary valuation conclusions are then documented and discussed with our senior management.
- The audit committee of our board of directors reviews these preliminary valuations. Where appropriate, the committee may utilize an independent valuation firm selected by the board of directors.
- The board of directors discusses valuations and determines the fair value of each investment in our portfolio in good faith based on the input of our investment adviser and audit committee and, where appropriate, an independent valuation firm.

Interest Income Recognition

Interest income, adjusted for amortization of premium and accretion of discount, is recorded on an accrual basis to the extent that such amounts are expected to be collected. The Company stops accruing interest on its investments when it is determined that interest is no longer collectible. If any cash is received after it is determined that interest is no longer collectible, we will treat the cash as payment on the principal balance until the entire principal balance has been repaid, before any interest income is recognized. Discounts and premiums on securities purchased are accreted/amortized over the life of the respective security using the effective yield method. The amortized cost of investments represents the original cost adjusted for the accretion of discounts and amortizations of premium on bonds.

Payment in Kind Interest

The Company has loans in its portfolio that contain a payment-in-kind ("PIK") provision. The PIK interest, computed at the contractual rate specified in each loan agreement, is added to the

principal balance of the loan and recorded as interest income. To maintain the Company's status as a RIC, this non-cash source of income must be paid out to stockholders in the form of dividends, even though the Company has not yet collected the cash. For the year ended December 31, 2005, $3,113,035 in PIK income was recorded. For the period from June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004, $508,762 in PIK income was recorded.

Capital Structuring Service Fees

The Company's Investment Adviser seeks to provide assistance to the portfolio companies in connection with the Company's investments and in return the Company may receive fees for capital structuring services. These fees are normally paid at the closing of the investments, are generally non-recurring and are recognized as revenue when earned upon closing the investment. The services that the Company's Investment Adviser provides vary by investment, but generally consist of reviewing existing credit facilities, arranging bank financing, arranging equity financing, structuring financing from multiple lenders, structuring financing from equity investors, restructuring existing loans, raising equity and debt capital, and providing general financial advice, which concludes upon closing of the loan. The Company's Investment Adviser may also take a seat on the board of directors of a portfolio company, or observe the meetings of the board of directors without taking a formal seat. Any services of the above nature subsequent to the closing would generally generate a separate fee payable to the Company. In certain instances where the Company is invited to participate as a co-lender in a transaction and in the event that the Company does not provide significant services in connection with the investment, a portion of loan fees paid to the Company in such situations may be deferred and amortized over the estimated life of the loan.

Foreign Currency Translation

The Company's books and records are maintained in U.S. dollars. Any foreign currency amounts are translated into U.S. dollars on the following basis:

(1) Market value of investment securities, other assets and liabilities—at the exchange rates prevailing at the end of the day.

(2) Purchases and sales of investment securities, income and expenses—at the rates of exchange prevailing on the respective dates of such transactions.

Although the net assets and the fair values are presented at the foreign exchange rates at the end of the day, the Company does not isolate the portion of the results of the operations resulting from changes in foreign exchange rates on investments from the fluctuations arising from changes in fair value of investments. Such fluctuations are included with the net realized and unrealized gains or losses from investments. Foreign security and currency translations may involve certain considerations and risks not typically associated with investing in U.S. companies and U.S. Government securities. These risks include but are not limited to revaluation of currencies and future adverse political and economic developments which could cause investments in their markets to be less liquid and prices more volatile than those of comparable U.S. companies.

Organizational Expenses

Approximately $200,000 in organizational expenses were expensed as incurred for the period from June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004.

Offering Expenses

The Company's offering costs were charged against the proceeds from the IPO, the Add-on Offering (as defined in Note 11) and the October Add-on Offering (as defined in Note 11) when received and were approximately $1,600,000, $635,000 and $553,000, respectively (see Note 11).

Debt Issuance Costs

Debt issuance costs are being amortized over the life of the related credit facility using the straight line method.

Federal Income Taxes

The Company has qualified and elected and intends to continue to qualify and elect for the tax treatment applicable to regulated investment companies under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "Code"), as amended, and, among other things, has made and intends to continue to make the requisite distributions to its stockholders which will relieve the Company from Federal income taxes. Therefore, no provision has been recorded for Federal income taxes. Depending on the level of taxable income earned in a tax year, we may choose to carry forward taxable income in excess of current year distributions into the next tax year and pay a 4% excise tax on such income, as required. For the year ended December 31, 2005, a provision of approximately $158,000 was recorded for Federal excise taxes. As of December 31, 2005, the entire amount was unpaid and included in accounts payable on the accompanying consolidated balance sheet.

In order to qualify as a RIC, among other factors, the Company is required to timely distribute to its stockholders at least 90% of investment company taxable income, as defined by the Code, for each year.

Dividends

Dividends and distributions to common stockholders are recorded on the record date. The amount to be paid out as a dividend is determined by the board of directors each quarter and is generally based upon the earnings estimated by management. Net realized capital gains, if any, are distributed at least annually, although we may decide to retain such capital gains for investment..

We have adopted a dividend reinvestment plan that provides for reinvestment of our distributions on behalf of our stockholders, unless a stockholder elects to receive cash. As a result, if our board of directors authorizes, and we declare, a cash dividend, then our stockholders who have not "opted out" of our dividend reinvestment plan will have their cash dividends automatically reinvested in additional shares of our common stock, rather than receiving the cash dividends.

Use of Estimates in the Preparation of Financial Statements

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of actual and contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of income or loss and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Significant estimates include the valuation of investments.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The carrying value of the Company's financial instruments approximate fair value. The carrying value of interest and open trade receivables, accounts payable and accrued expenses, as well as the credit facility payable approximate fair value due to their short maturity.

3. AGREEMENTS

The Company has entered into an investment advisory agreement (the "Advisory Agreement") with the Investment Adviser under which the Investment Adviser, subject to the overall supervision of our board of directors, provides investment advisory services to ARCC. For providing these services, the Investment Adviser receives a fee from us, consisting of two components—a base management fee and an incentive fee. The base management fee is calculated at an annual rate of 1.5% of our total assets (other than cash or cash equivalents but including assets purchased with borrowed funds). For services rendered under the Advisory Agreement during the period commencing from October 8, 2004 through and including December 31, 2004, the base management fee is payable monthly in arrears. For services rendered under the Advisory Agreement after that time, the base management fee is payable quarterly in arrears. The base management fee is calculated based on the average value of our total assets (other than cash or cash equivalents but including assets purchased with borrowed funds) at the end of the two most recently completed calendar quarters.

The incentive fee has two parts. One part is calculated and payable quarterly in arrears based on our pre-incentive fee net investment income. Pre-incentive fee net investment income means interest income, dividend income and any other income (including any other fees such as commitment, origination, structuring, diligence and consulting fees or other fees that we receive from portfolio companies but excluding fees for providing managerial assistance) accrued during the calendar quarter, minus operating expenses for the quarter (including the base management fee, any expenses payable under the administration agreement, and any interest expense and dividends paid on any outstanding preferred stock, but excluding the incentive fee). Pre-incentive fee net investment income includes, in the case of investments with a deferred interest feature such as market discount, debt instruments with payment-in-kind interest, preferred stock with payment-in-kind dividends and zero coupon securities, accrued income that we have not yet received in cash. The Investment Adviser is not under any obligation to reimburse us for any part of the incentive fee it received that was based on accrued income that we never received as a result of a default by an entity on the obligation that resulted in the accrual of such income.

Pre-incentive fee net investment income does not include any realized capital gains, realized capital losses or unrealized capital appreciation or depreciation. Pre-incentive fee net investment

income, expressed as a rate of return on the value of our net assets at the end of the immediately preceding calendar quarter, is compared to a fixed "hurdle rate" of 2.00% per quarter.

We pay the Investment Adviser an incentive fee with respect to our pre-incentive fee net investment income in each calendar quarter as follows:

- no incentive fee in any calendar quarter in which the pre-incentive fee net investment income does not exceed the hurdle rate;
- 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 2.50% in any calendar quarter. We refer to this portion of our pre-incentive fee net investment income (which exceeds the hurdle rate but is less than 2.50%) as the "catch-up" provision. The "catch-up" is meant to provide our Investment Adviser with 20% of the pre-incentive fee net investment income as if a hurdle rate did not apply if this net investment income exceeds 2.50% in any calendar quarter; and
- 20% of the amount of our pre-incentive fee net investment income, if any, that exceeds 2.50% in any calendar quarter.

These calculations are adjusted for any share issuances or repurchases during the quarter.

The second part of the incentive fee is determined and payable in arrears as of the end of each calendar year (or upon termination of the Advisory Agreement, as of the termination date), commencing with the calendar year ending on December 31, 2004, and equals 20% of our realized capital gains for the calendar year, if any, computed net of all realized capital losses and unrealized capital depreciation for such year.

Earlier in 2005, as part of an industry sweep, the Fort Worth District Office of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "District Office") conducted a limited scope examination of the Company. As a result of this examination, by letter dated September 29, 2005, the District Office—while noting that the fees we have already paid to our investment adviser do not appear to exceed those allowable by law—raised issues regarding the clarity of the Advisory Agreement and certain aspects of our method of calculation of the capital gains portion of the incentive fee contained in that agreement.

The District Office's letter noted that the Chief Accountant's Office of the Division of Investment Management has interpreted the language in Section 205(b)(3)(A) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 to generally allow two basic methodologies for calculating the capital gains portion of the incentive fee. The first, called the "period-to-period" method, bases the capital gains fee on realized capital gains net of realized capital losses over a specified period (e.g., one year) reduced by the amount of unrealized depreciation over the same period. Under the period-to-period method, the calculation of unrealized depreciation of each portfolio security over the period must be based upon the market value at the end of the period compared to the market value at the beginning of the period. The second, called the "cumulative" method, bases the capital gains fee on the cumulative net realized capital gains less unrealized depreciation as of the date of the calculation, less the amount of fees paid to the adviser to date. Under the cumulative method, the calculation of unrealized

depreciation of each portfolio security must be based upon the market value of each security as of the date of such calculation compared to its adjusted cost.

We intended to use the cumulative method to calculate the capital gains portion of the incentive fee. However, the District Office raised issues regarding the clarity of the language in our Advisory Agreement. In response the Investment Adviser has agreed that in calculating payments of the capital gains portion of the incentive fee, we would use the calculation that results in the lowest incentive fee payment to the Investment Adviser until our next stockholder meeting, where we would seek the vote of our stockholders to clarify or amend and restate the Advisory Agreement to make our method of calculation clear. We do not expect that the resolution of this inquiry will result in a material adverse effect on us or our stockholders.

We defer cash payment of any incentive fee otherwise earned by the 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) the aggregate distributions to the stockholders and (b) the change in net assets (defined as total assets less indebtedness) is less than 8.0% of our net assets at the beginning of such period. These calculations are appropriately pro rated during the first three calendar quarters following October 8, 2004 and are adjusted for any share issuances or repurchases.

For the year ended December 31, 2005, we incurred $5,147,492 in base management fees, $3,222,690 in incentive management fees related to pre-incentive fee net investment income and $979,388 in incentive management fees related to realized capital gains. As of December 31, 2005, $3,478,034 was unpaid and included in management and incentive fees payable in the accompanying consolidated balance sheet.

For the period from October 8, 2004 (the date of the IPO and the commencement of substantial investment operations) through December 31, 2004, we incurred $471,565 in base management fees and $59,904 in incentive management fees related to pre-incentive fee net investment income and $35,567 in incentive management fees related to realized capital gains. As of December 31, 2004, $274,657 was unpaid and included in management and incentive fees payable in the accompanying consolidated balance sheet.

We also entered into a separate administration agreement (the "Administration Agreement") with Ares Administration under which Ares Administration furnishes us with office facilities, equipment and clerical, bookkeeping and record keeping services at such facilities. Under the Administration Agreement, Ares Administration also performs or oversees the performance of our required administrative services, which include, among other things, being responsible for the financial records which we are required to maintain and preparing reports to our stockholders and reports filed with the SEC. In addition, Ares Administration assists us in determining and publishing the net asset value, oversees the preparation and filing of our tax returns and the printing and dissemination of reports to our stockholders, and generally oversees the payment of our expenses and the performance of administrative and professional services rendered to us by others. Under the Administration Agreement, Ares Administration also provides on our behalf, managerial assistance to those portfolio companies to which we are required to provide such assistance. The Administration Agreement may be terminated by either party without penalty upon 60-days' written notice to the other party.

For the year ended December 31, 2005, we incurred $888,081 in administrative fees. As of December 31, 2005, $203,334 was unpaid and included in accounts payable and accrued expenses in the accompanying consolidated balance sheet.

For the period from October 8, 2004 (the date of the IPO and the commencement of substantial investment operations) through December 31, 2004 we incurred $135,941 in administrative fees. As of December 31, 2004, the entire amount was unpaid and included in accounts payable and accrued expenses in the accompanying consolidated balance sheet. Prior to October 8, 2004, we incurred no administrative fees.

4. EARNINGS PER SHARE

The following information sets forth the computation of basic and diluted net increase in stockholders' equity per share resulting from the year ended December 31, 2005:

Numerator for basic and diluted net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations per share:	$	41,851,076
Denominator for basic and diluted net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations per share:		23,487,935
Basic and diluted net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations per share:	$	1.78

The following information sets forth the computation of basic and diluted net increase in stockholders' equity per share resulting from October 8, 2004 (the date of the IPO and the commencement of substantial investment operations) through December 31, 2004:

Numerator for basic and diluted net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations per share:	$	3,190,488
Denominator for basic and diluted net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations per share:		11,066,767
Basic and diluted net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations per share:	$	0.29

If the above computation had been done for the period from June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004, the numerator would have remained the same, but the denominator would have been 4,905,916 resulting in a basic and diluted net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations per share of $0.65.

5. INVESTMENTS

For the year ended December 31, 2005, the Company purchased (A) $339.3 million aggregate principal amount of senior term debt, (B) $76.6 million aggregate principal amount of senior subordinated debt, (C) $61.4 million of investments in equity securities, (D) $18.0 million aggregate principal amount of senior notes and (E) $9.0 million of investments in collateralized debt obligations.

In addition, for the year ended December 31, 2005, (1) $38.4 million aggregate principal amount of senior term debt and (2) $27.2 million aggregate principal amount of senior subordinated debt were redeemed. Additionally, (A) $25.0 million aggregate principal amount of senior term debt, (B) $14.0 million aggregate principal amount of senior notes and (C) $3.5 million of investments in equity securities were sold.

As of December 31, 2005, investments and cash and cash equivalents consisted of the following:

	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 16,613,334	$ 16,613,334
Senior term debt	338,993,970	338,467,061
Senior notes	10,000,000	10,000,000
Senior subordinated debt	129,816,927	130,042,698
Collateralized debt obligations	16,980,590	17,386,561
Equity securities	85,560,378	90,072,055
Total	$ 597,965,199	$ 602,581,709

As of December 31, 2004, investments and cash and cash equivalents consisted of the following:

	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 26,806,160	$ 26,806,160
Senior term debt	63,069,190	63,118,678
Senior notes	6,060,352	5,997,645
Senior subordinated debt	77,925,429	78,169,595
Collateralized debt obligations	8,281,768	8,281,768
Equity securities	26,992,461	26,992,461
Total	$ 209,135,360	$ 209,366,307

The amortized cost represents the original cost adjusted for the accretion of discounts and amortization of premiums on debt using the effective interest method.

6. INCOME TAXES

The following reconciles net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations to taxable income for the year ended December 31, 2005:

Net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations	$	41,851,076
Net unrealized gain on investments transactions not taxable		(4,385,563)
Other income not currently taxable		(3,040,806)
Other taxable income		2,435,774
Expenses not currently deductible		192,281
Other deductible expenses		(802,692)
Taxable income before deductions for distributions	$	36,250,070

As of December 31, 2005, the cost of investments for tax purposes was $580,261,410 resulting in a gross unrealized appreciation and depreciation of $11,127,886 and $5,420,916, respectively.

For income tax purposes, distributions paid to stockholders are reported as ordinary income, non-taxable, capital gains, or a combination thereof. Dividends paid per common share for the year ended December 31, 2005 were taxable as follows (unaudited):

Ordinary income	$	31,563,873
Capital gains		—
Return of capital		—
Total reported on tax form 1099-DIV	$	31,563,873

The following reconciles net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations to taxable income for the period from June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004:

Net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations	$	3,190,488
Net unrealized gain on investments transactions not taxable		(230,947)
Other income not currently taxable		(53,490)
Organizational expenses not currently deductible		189,905
Taxable income before deductions for distributions	$	3,095,956

As of December 31, 2004, the cost of investments for tax purposes was $182,275,710 resulting in a gross unrealized appreciation and depreciation of $347,144 and $62,707, respectively.

For income tax purposes, distributions paid to stockholders are reported as ordinary income, non-taxable, capital gains, or a combination thereof. Dividends paid per common share for the period from June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004 were taxable as follows (unaudited):

Ordinary income	$	3,095,956
Capital gains		—
Return of capital		224,074
Total reported on tax form 1099-DIV	$	3,320,030

7. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

As of December 31, 2005, the Company had committed to make a total of approximately $43.0 million of investments in various revolving senior secured loans. As of December 31, 2005, $28.8 million was unfunded. Included within the $43.0 million commitment in revolving secured loans is a commitment to issue up to $3.2 million in standby letters of credit through a financial intermediary on behalf of a portfolio company. Under these arrangements, the Company would be required to make payments to third-party beneficiaries if the portfolio company was to default on its related payment obligations. As of December 31, 2005, the Company had $2.2 million in standby letters of credit issued and outstanding on behalf of the portfolio company, of which no amounts were recorded as a liability. These letters of credit expire on September 30, 2006, but may be extended under substantially similar terms for additional one-year terms at the Company's option until the revolving line of credit, under which the letters of credit were issued, matures on September 30, 2011.

As of December 31, 2004, the Company had committed to make a total of approximately $14.2 million of investments in various revolving senior secured loans. As of December 31, 2004, $13.8 million was unfunded.

8. CREDIT FACILITY PAYABLE

In accordance with the 1940 Act, with certain limited exceptions, we are only allowed to borrow amounts such that our asset coverage, as defined in the 1940 Act, is at least 200% after such borrowing. On October 29, 2004, we formed Ares Capital CP Funding LLC ("Ares Capital CP"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, through which we established a revolving credit facility (the "CP Funding Facility"). On November 3, 2004 (the "Facility Effective Date"), the Company entered into the CP Funding Facility that allows Ares Capital CP to issue up to $150.0 million of variable funding certificates ("VFC"). As part of the CP Funding Facility, we are subject to limitations as to how borrowed funds may be used including restrictions on geographic concentrations, sector concentrations, loan size, payment frequency and status, average life, collateral interests and investment ratings as well as regulatory restrictions on leverage which may affect the amount of VFC that we may issue from time to time. There are also certain requirements relating to portfolio performance, including required minimum portfolio yield and limitations on delinquencies and charge-offs, violation of which could result in the early amortization of the CP Funding Facility and limit further advances under the CP Funding Facility and in some cases could be an event of default. Such limitations, requirements, and associated defined terms are as provided for in the documents governing the CP Funding Facility. As of December 31, 2005 there was $18.0 million outstanding under the CP Funding Facility and the Company continues to be in compliance with all of the limitations and requirements of the CP Funding Facility. As of December 31, 2004 there was $55.5 million outstanding under the CP Funding Facility.

The CP Funding Facility initially was to expire on November 2, 2005, but was extended to November 1, 2006. If the CP Funding Facility is not extended beyond November 1, 2006, any principal amounts then outstanding will be amortized over a 24-month period from the termination date. Upon entering into the CP Funding Facility, we were required to pay a one-time 0.25% structuring fee. On April 8, 2005, the Company entered into an amendment that increased the amount available for borrowing under the CP Funding Facility from $150.0 million to $225.0 million. As a part of the amendment, the Company was required to pay a one-time structuring fee of 0.25% of the increased available amount equal to $187,500. On November 14, 2005, the Company entered into an amendment that increased the amount available for borrowing under the CP Funding Facility from $225.0 million to $350.0 million and made certain provisions of the CP Funding Facility more flexible. As a part of the amendment, the Company was required to pay a one-time structuring fee of 0.25% of the increased available amount equal to $312,500. Under the terms of the CP Funding Facility, we are required to pay a renewal fee of 0.375% of the total amount available for borrowing on or around each November 3.

From the Facility Effective Date through November 13, 2005, the interest charged on the VFC was based on the commercial paper rate plus 1.25%. As a part of the November 14, 2005 amendment to the CP Funding Facility, effective on November 14, 2005, the interest charged on the VFC was reduced to the commercial paper rate plus 0.75%. The interest charged on the VFC is payable quarterly. As of December 31, 2005, the commercial paper rate was 4.3223% and as of December 31, 2004 the commercial paper rate was 2.3152%. For the year ended December 31, 2005 the average interest rate (i.e. commercial paper rate plus the spread) was 4.26%. For the year ended December 31, 2005 the average outstanding balance was $17,939,726. The average interest rate during the period from the Facility Effective Date through December 31, 2004 was 1.78% (from date of first borrowing through December 31, 2004, the average interest rate was 3.50%) and the average outstanding balance

was $10,466,102. For the year ended December 31, 2005, the interest expense incurred was $799,307. For the period from June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004 the interest expense incurred was $60,532. Cash paid for interest expense during the year ended December 31, 2005 was $638,204. There was no cash paid for interest during the period from June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004.

The Company is also required to pay a commitment fee for any unused portion of the CP Funding Facility. Initially, the commitment fee was 0.175% per annum. In connection with the April 8, 2005 amendment to the CP Funding Facility, this commitment fee was temporarily reduced to 0.11% per annum until the earlier of (a) the date the total borrowings outstanding exceed $150.0 million or (b) October 3, 2005, after which the commitment fee was 0.175% per annum. In connection with the November 14, 2005 amendment to the CP Funding Facility, the commitment fee was reduced to 0.10% per annum prior to the first time that the borrowings outstanding under the CP Funding Facility equal or exceed $200.0 million and 0.125% per annum on and after the first time that the borrowings outstanding under the CP Funding Facility exceed $200.0 million. For the year ended December 31, 2005 the commitment fee incurred was $257,800. For the period from June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004 the commitment fee incurred was $35,644.

In December 2005, we entered into a new senior secured revolving credit facility (the "Revolving Credit Facility") under which the lenders have agreed to extend credit to Ares Capital in an initial aggregate principal amount not exceeding $250 million at any one time outstanding. The Revolving Credit Facility expires on December 28, 2010 and with certain exceptions is secured by substantially all of the assets in our portfolio (other than investments held by Ares Capital CP under the CP Funding Facility). Under the Revolving Credit Facility, we have made certain representations and warranties and are required to comply with various covenants, reporting requirements and other customary requirements for similar revolving credit facilities, including, without limitation, covenants related to: (a) limitations on the incurrence of additional indebtedness and liens, (b) limitations on certain investments, (c) limitations on certain restricted payments, (d) maintaining a certain minimum stockholders' equity, (e) maintaining a ratio of total assets (less total liabilities) to total indebtedness, of Ares Capital and its subsidiaries, of not less than 2.0:1.0, (f) maintaining minimum liquidity, and (g) limitations on the creation or existence of agreements that prohibit liens on certain properties of Ares Capital and its subsidiaries.

In addition to the asset coverage ratio described above, borrowings under the Revolving Credit Facility (and the incurrence of certain other permitted debt) will be subject to compliance with a borrowing base that will apply different advance rates to different types of assets in our portfolio. The Revolving Credit Facility also includes an "accordion" feature that allows us to increase the size of the Revolving Credit Facility to a maximum of $500 million under certain circumstances. The Revolving Credit Facility also includes usual and customary events of default for senior secured revolving credit facilities of this nature. As of December 31, 2005, there were no amounts outstanding under the Revolving Credit Facility and the Company continues to be in compliance with all of the limitations and requirements of the Revolving Credit Facility.

The interest charged under the Revolving Credit Facility is based on LIBOR (one, two, three or six month) plus 1.00%, generally. As of December 31, 2005, the one, two, three and six month LIBOR were 4.39%, 4.48%, 4.54% and 4.70%, respectively. The Company is also required to pay a

commitment fee of 0.20% for any unused portion of the Revolving Credit Facility. For the year ended December 31, 2005, the commitment fee incurred was $5,555.

9. DERIVATIVE INSTRUMENTS

In 2005, we entered into a costless collar agreement in order to manage the exposure to changing interest rates related to the Company's fixed rate investments. The costless collar agreement is for a notional amount of $20 million, has a cap of 6.5%, a floor of 2.72% and matures in 2008. The costless collar agreement allows us to receive an interest payment for any quarterly period when the 3-month LIBOR exceeds 6.5%, and requires us to pay an interest payment for any quarterly period when the 3-month LIBOR is less than 2.72%. The costless collar resets quarterly based on the 3-month LIBOR. As of December 31, 2005, the 3-month LIBOR was 4.54%. As of December 31, 2005 these derivatives had no fair value.

10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Gross underwriting costs related to the IPO were $7,425,000 or $0.675 per share. As a part of the IPO, the Investment Adviser, on our behalf, agreed to pay the underwriters $0.225 of the $0.675 per share in underwriting discount and commissions for a total of approximately $2.5 million. We are obligated to repay this amount, together with accrued interest (charged at the 3-month LIBOR plus 2% starting on October 8, 2004) (a) if during any four calendar quarter period ending on or after October 8, 2005 the sum of (i) the aggregate distributions, including return of capital, if any, to the stockholders and (ii) the change in net assets (defined as total assets less indebtedness) equals or exceeds 7.0% of the net assets at the beginning of such period (as adjusted for any share issuances or repurchases) or (b) upon the Company's liquidation. On March 8, 2005, the Company's board of directors approved entering into an amended and restated agreement with the Investment Adviser whereby the Company would be obligated to repay the Investment Adviser for the approximate $2.5 million only if the conditions for repayment referred to above were met before the third anniversary of the IPO. If one or more such events do not occur on or before October 8, 2007, we will not be obligated to repay this amount to the Investment Adviser. For the year ended December 31, 2005, the sum of our aggregate distributions to our stockholders and our change in net assets exceeded 7.0% of net assets as of December 31, 2004 (as adjusted for any share issuances). As of December 31, 2005, such amount was recorded as a payable to the Investment Adviser in the accompanying consolidated balance sheet. Additionally, the Company also recognized the interest expense related to the amount payable to the Investment Adviser in the accompanying consolidated balance sheet and statement of operations.

In accordance with the Advisory Agreement, we bear all costs and expenses of the operation of the Company and reimburse the Investment Adviser for all such costs and expenses incurred in the operation of the Company. For the year ended December 31, 2005, the Investment Adviser incurred such expenses totaling $243,377. Accordingly, the Company has recorded a liability at December 31, 2005 to the Investment Adviser for the portion of such amount not yet reimbursed. As of December 31, 2005, $98,726 was payable to the Investment adviser and such payable is included in accounts payable and accrued expenses in the accompanying consolidated balance sheet. For the period from June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004 the Investment Adviser incurred such

expenses totaling $242,205, of which $232,632 related to offering costs paid on behalf of the Company by the Investment Adviser. Accordingly, the Company has recorded a liability at December 31, 2004 to the Investment Adviser for the portion of such amount not yet reimbursed. As of December 31, 2004, $14,398 was payable to the Investment Adviser and such payable is included in accounts payable in the accompanying consolidated balance sheet.

As of December 31, 2005, Ares Management, of which the Investment Adviser is a wholly-owned subsidiary, owned 666,667 shares of the Company's common stock representing approximately 1.8% of the total shares outstanding.

See Note 3 for a description of other related party transactions.

11. STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

On March 23, 2005, we completed a public add-on offering (the "Add-on Offering") of 12,075,000 shares of common stock (including the underwriters' overallotment of 1,575,000 shares) at $16.00 per share, less an underwriting discount and commissions totaling $0.72 per share. Total proceeds received from the Add-on Offering, net of the underwriters' discount and offering costs, were $183.9 million.

On October 18, 2005, we completed a public add-on offering (the "October Add-on Offering") of 14,500,000 shares of common stock at $15.46 per share, less an underwriting discount and commissions totaling $0.6957 per share. Total proceeds received from the October Add-on Offering, net of the underwriters' discount and offering costs, were approximately $213.5 million.

12. DIVIDEND

For the three months ended December 31, 2005, the Company declared a dividend on December 12, 2005 of $0.34 per share for a total of $12,889,224. The record date was December 22, 2005 and the dividend was distributed on January 17, 2006. For the three months ended September 30, 2005, the Company declared a dividend on September 6, 2005 of $0.34 per share for a total of $7,940,174. The record date was September 16, 2005 and the dividend was distributed on September 30, 2005. For the three months ended June 30, 2005, the Company declared a dividend on June 20, 2005 of $0.32 per share for a total of $7,413,951. The record date was June 30, 2005 and the dividend was distributed on July 15, 2005. For the three months ended March 31, 2005, the Company declared a dividend on February 23, 2005 of $0.30 per share for a total of $3,320,524. The record date was March 7, 2005 and the dividend was distributed on April 15, 2005.

13. FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The following is a schedule of financial highlights for the year ended December 31, 2005 and for the period from June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004:

	For the year ended December 31, 2005	For the period from June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004
Per Share Data:		
Net asset value, beginning of period(1)	$ 14.43	$ 15.00
Issuance of common stock	0.39	(0.78)
Effect of antidilution	(0.16)	—
Underwriting costs (reimbursed to)/paid by the Investment Adviser (see Note 10)(2)	(0.11)	0.22
Net investment income for period(2)	1.15	0.25
Net realized and unrealized gains for period(2)	0.63	0.04
Net increase in stockholders' equity	1.90	(0.27)
Distributions from net investment income	(1.15)	(0.25)
Distributions in excess of net investment income	—	(0.01)
Distributions from net realized capital gains on securities	(0.15)	(0.02)
Total distributions to stockholders before return of capital	(1.30)	(0.28)
Tax return of capital	—	(0.02)
Total distributions	(1.30)	(0.30)
Net asset value at end of period(1)	$ 15.03	$ 14.43
Per share market value at end of period	$ 16.07	$ 19.43
Total return based on market value(3)	(10.60)%	31.53%
Total return based on net asset value(4)	12.04%	(1.80)%
Shares outstanding at end of period	37,909,484	11,066,767
Ratio/Supplemental Data:		
Net assets at end of period	$ 569,612,199	$ 159,708,305
Ratio of operating expenses to average net assets(5)	4.11%	5.24%
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets(5)	7.56%	8.54%
Portfolio turnover rate(5)	34%	215%

(1) The net assets used equals the total stockholders' equity on the consolidated balance sheets.

(2) Weighted average basic per share data.

(3) For the year ended December 31, 2005, the total return based on market value equals the decrease of the ending market value at December 31, 2005 of $16.07 per share over the ending market value at December 31, 2004 of $19.43, plus the declared dividend of $0.30 per share for holders of record on March 7, 2005, the declared dividend of $0.32 per share for holders of record on June 30, 2005, the declared dividend of $0.34 per share for holders of record on September 16, 2005 and the declared dividend of $0.34 per share for holders of record on December 22, 2005, divided by the market value at December 31, 2004. For the period from June 23, 2004 (inception) through

December 31, 2004, the total return based on market value equals the increase of the ending market value at December 31, 2004 of $19.43 per share over the offering price of $15 per share, plus the declared dividend of $0.30 per share (includes return of capital of $0.01 per share) for holders of record on December 27, 2004, divided by the offering price. Total return based on market value is not annualized.

(4) For the year ended December 31, 2005, the total return based on net asset value equals the change in net asset value during the period plus the declared dividend of $0.30 per share for holders of record on March 7, 2005, the declared dividend of $0.32 per share for holders of record on June 30, 2005, the declared dividend of $0.34 per share for holders of record on September 16, 2005 and the declared dividend of $0.34 per share for holders of record on December 22, 2005, divided by the beginning net asset value during the period. The calculation was adjusted for shares issued in connection with dividend reinvestment plan, the issuances of common stock in connection with the Add-on Offering and October Add-on Offering, and the reimbursement of underwriting costs paid by the Investment Adviser. For the period from June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004 the total return based on net asset value equals the change in net asset value during the period plus the declared dividend of $0.30 per share (includes return of capital of $0.01 per share) for holders of record on December 27, 2004, divided by the beginning net asset value during the period. Total return based on net asset value is not annualized.

(5) The ratios reflect an annualized amount.

14. IMPACT OF NEW ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

In December 2004, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ("SFAS") 123R, "Share Based Payment, " which requires companies to recognize in the statement of operations the grant date fair value of stock options and other equity based compensation issued to employees. SFAS 123R is effective for annual periods beginning after June 15, 2005. As the Company does not have any options or equity based compensation plans, there is no expected impact from the adoption of SFAS 123R.

15. SELECTED QUARTERLY DATA (Unaudited)

	2005				2004
	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1	Q4(1)
Total Investment Income	$ 14,890,281	$ 11,607,989	$ 9,601,615	$ 5,750,592	$ 4,380,848
Net investment income before net realized and unrealized gain on investments and incentive compensation	$ 11,071,081	$ 8,887,631	$ 7,567,053	$ 3,800,113	$ 3,009,749
Incentive compensation	$ (510,478)	$ 2,643,353	$ 1,798,919	$ 270,284	$ 95,471
Net investment income before net realized and unrealized gain on investments	$ 11,581,559	$ 6,244,278	$ 5,768,134	$ 3,529,829	$ 2,914,278
Net realized and unrealized gain on investments	$ 4,281,465	$ 3,637,612	$ 1,834,122	$ 4,974,077	$ 475,393
Net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations	$ 15,863,024	$ 9,881,890	$ 7,602,256	$ 8,503,906	$ 3,389,671
Basic and diluted earnings per common share	$ 0.45	$ 0.42	$ 0.33	$ 0.69	$ 0.34
Net asset value per share as of the end of the quarter	$ 15.03	$ 15.08	$ 14.97	$ 14.96	$ 14.43

(1) The Company was initially funded on June 23, 2005 (inception) but had no significant operations until the fourth quarter of 2004. The sole activity for the second and third quarters of 2004 was the incurrence of $199,183 in organizational expenses.

16. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

In January 2006, the Company entered into a new lease agreement to rent new office facilities (the "New Office Space") directly from a third party. The lease begins on July 26, 2006 and expires on February 27, 2011. In addition, we have entered into a sublease with Ares Management whereby Ares Management will sublease approximately 25% of the New Office Space for a fixed rent equal to 25% of the basic annual rent payable by us under the new lease, plus certain additional costs and expenses.

In connection with our IPO, our Investment Adviser paid to the underwriters, on our behalf, an additional sales load with respect to the offering of our shares in the aggregate amount of $2,475,000. In February 2006 we repaid this amount together with accrued interest.

ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

	As of	
	March 31, 2006	**December 31, 2005**
	(unaudited)	
ASSETS		
Investments at fair value (amortized cost of $740,988,027 and $581,351,865, respectively)		
Non-control/Non-affiliate investments	$ 644,751,610	$ 515,184,991
Affiliate investments	102,393,539	70,783,384
Total investments at fair value	747,145,149	585,968,375
Cash and cash equivalents	19,034,286	16,613,334
Receivable for open trades	1,025,671	1,581,752
Interest receivable	7,958,177	5,828,098
Other assets	3,457,273	3,653,585
Total assets	$ 778,620,556	$ 613,645,144
LIABILITIES		
Credit facilities payable	$ 185,200,000	$ 18,000,000
Reimbursed underwriting costs payable to the Investment Adviser	—	2,475,000
Dividend payable	13,682,573	12,889,225
Payable for open trades	—	5,500,000
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	1,654,641	1,222,678
Management and incentive fees payable	5,466,543	3,478,034
Interest and facility fees payable	1,241,461	313,930
Interest payable to the Investment Adviser	—	154,078
Total liabilities	207,245,218	44,032,945
Commitments and contingencies (Note 6)		
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Common stock, par value $.001 per share, 100,000,000 common shares authorized, 38,007,148 and 37,909,484 common shares issued and outstanding, respectively	38,008	37,910
Capital in excess of par value	560,795,135	559,192,554
Accumulated net realized gain on sale of investments	4,385,073	5,765,225
Net unrealized appreciation on investments	6,157,122	4,616,510
Total stockholders' equity	571,375,338	569,612,199
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	$ 778,620,556	$ 613,645,144
NET ASSETS PER SHARE	$ 15.03	$ 15.03

ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS
As of December 31, 2005

Company(1)	Industry	Investment	Interest(10)	Initial Acquisition Date	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Fair Value Per Unit	Percentage of Net Assets
Healthcare—Services								
American Renal Associates, Inc.	Dialysis provider	Senior secured loan ($3,426,230 par due 12/2010)	8.68% (Libor+ 4.00%/Q)	12/14/05	3,426,230	3,426,230	$ 1.00	
		Senior secured loan ($180,328 par due 12/2010)	8.50% (Libor+ 4.00%/Q)	12/14/05	180,328	180,328	$ 1.00	
		Senior secured loan ($5,886,885 par due 12/2011)	9.18% (Libor + 4.50%/Q)	12/14/05	5,886,885	5,886,885	$ 1.00	
		Senior secured loan ($14,754 par due 12/2011)	9.00% (Libor+ 4.50%/Q)	12/14/05	14,754	14,754	$ 1.00	
		Senior secured loan ($7,213,115 par due 12/2011)	11.68% (Libor + 7.00%/Q)	12/14/05	7,213,115	7,213,115	$ 1.00	
Capella Healthcare, Inc.	Acute care hospital operator	Junior secured loan ($29,000,000 par due 11/2013)	10.45% (Libor + 6.00%/Q)	12/1/05	29,000,000	29,000,000	$ 1.00	
PHNS, Inc.	Information technology and business process outsourcing	Senior subordinated loan ($16,000,000 par due 11/2011)	13.50% cash, 2.5% PIK	10/29/04	15,785,661	16,000,000	$ 1.00(3)	
Triad Laboratory Alliance, LLC	Laboratory services	Senior subordinated loan ($9,714,888 par due 12/2012)	12.00% cash, 1.75% PIK	12/21/05	9,714,888	9,714,888	$ 1.00(3)	
		Senior secured loan ($3,000,000 par due 12/2011)	7.78% (Libor + 3.25%/Q)	12/21/05	3,000,000	3,000,000	$ 1.00	
					74,221,861	74,436,200		13.03%
Containers—Packaging								
Captive Plastics, Inc.	Plastics container manufacturer	Junior secured loan ($16,000,000 par due 2/2012)	11.62% (Libor + 7.25%/M)	12/19/05	16,000,000	16,000,000	$ 1.00	
Industrial Container Services, LLC (7)	Industrial container manufacturer, reconditioner and servicer	Senior secured loan ($26,728,663 par due 9/2011)	11.00% (Libor + 6.50%/Q)	9/30/05	26,728,663	26,728,663	$ 1.00	
		Senior secured loan ($4,643,479 par due 9/2011)	8.88% (Libor + 4.50%/M)	9/30/05	4,643,479	4,643,479	$ 1.00	
		Senior secured revolving loan ($1,160,870 par due 9/2011)	10.25% (Base Rate + 3.00%/Q)	9/30/05	1,160,870	1,160,870	$ 1.00	
		Senior secured revolving loan ($541,739 par due 9/2011)	10.25% (Base Rate + 3.00%/Q)	9/30/05	541,739	541,739	$ 1.00	
		Common stock (1,800,000 shares)		9/29/05	1,800,000	1,800,000	$ 1.00(4)	
York Label Holdings, Inc.	Consumer product labels manufacturer	Senior subordinated loan ($10,368,791 par due 2/2010)	10.00% cash, 4.00% PIK	11/3/04	10,362,901	10,368,791	$ 1.00(2) (3)	
		Preferred stock (650 shares)	10.00%	11/3/04	3,742,445	3,742,445	$ 5,757.61(3)	
		Warrants to purchase 156,000 shares		11/3/04	5,320,409	5,320,408	$ 34.11(4)	
					70,300,506	70,306,395		12.30%
Services—Other								
Diversified Collection Services, Inc.	Collections services	Senior secured loan ($6,300,000 par due 2/2011)	8.38% (Libor + 4.00%/M)	2/2/05	6,300,000	6,300,000	$ 1.00(2)	
		Senior secured loan ($8,500,000	10.00% (Libor + 6.00%/Q)	2/2/05	8,500,000	8,500,000	$ 1.00(2)	

	par due 8/2011)					
	Preferred stock (114,004 shares)	2/2/05	295,270	295,270	$	2.59(4)

Event Rentals, Inc.	Party rental services	Senior secured loan ($2,676,136 par due 11/2011)	9.91% (Libor+ 5.25%/S)	11/17/05	2,676,136	2,676,136	$ 1.00	
		Senior secured loan ($2,897,727 par due 11/2011)	9.92% (Libor + 5.25%Q)	11/17/05	2,897,727	2,897,727	$ 1.00	
		Senior secured loan ($170,455 par due 11/2011)	11.50% (Base Rate + 4.25%/D)	11/17/05	170,455	170,455	$ 1.00	
		Senior secured loan ($8,011,363 par due 11/2011)	9.91% (Libor + 5.25%/S)	11/17/05	8,011,363	8,011,363	$ 1.00	
GCA Services, Inc.	Custodial services	Senior subordinated loan ($32,743,750 par due 1/2010)	12.00% cash, 3.00% PIK	7/25/05	32,743,750	32,743,750	$ 1.00(3)	
Miller Heiman, Inc.	Sales consulting services	Senior secured loan ($4,521,687 par due 6/2010)	8.14% (Libor + 3.75%/M)	6/20/05	4,521,687	4,521,687	$ 1.00(2)	
		Senior secured loan ($4,058,379 par due 6/2012)	8.78% (Libor + 4.25%/Q)	6/20/05	4,058,379	4,058,379	$ 1.00(2)	
					70,174,767	70,174,767		12.28%
Environmental Services								
Mactec, Inc.	Engineering and environmental	Common stock (186 shares) consulting services		11/3/04	—	—	$ 0.00(4)	
United Site Services, Inc.	Portable restroom and site services	Senior secured loan ($5,061,957 par due 8/2011)	7.37% (Libor + 3.00%/M)	9/14/05	5,061,957	5,061,957	$ 1.00	
		Senior secured loan ($3,043,478 par due 8/2011)	7.41% (Libor + 3.00%/Q)	9/14/05	3,043,478	3,043,478	$ 1.00	
		Senior secured loan ($1,869,565 par due 8/2011)	7.28% (Libor + 3.00%/Q)	9/14/05	1,869,565	1,869,565	$ 1.00	
		Junior secured loan ($13,461,538 par due 6/2010)	12.44% (Libor + 8.00%/Q)	12/1/04	13,419,063	13,461,538	$ 1.00(2)	
		Common stock (216,795 shares)		10/8/04	1,353,851	1,353,851	$ 6.24(4)	
Wastequip, Inc.	Waste management equipment manufacturer	Junior secured loan ($15,000,000 par due 7/2012)	10.53% (Libor + 6.00%/Q)	8/4/05	15,000,000	15,000,000	$ 1.00	
WCA Waste Systems, Inc.	Waste management services	Junior secured loan ($25,000,000 par due 10/2011)	10.53% (Libor + 6.00%/Q)	4/25/05	25,000,000	25,000,000	$ 1.00(2)	
					64,747,914	64,790,389		11.34%
Restaurants								
CICQ, LP	Restaurant franchisor, owner and operator	Limited partnership interest (26.5% interest)		8/15/05	53,000,000	62,284,540		
					53,000,000	62,284,540		10.90%
Manufacturing								
Arrow Group Industries, Inc.	Residential and outdoor shed manufacturer	Senior secured loan ($6,000,000 par due 4/2010)	9.53% (Libor + 5.00%/Q)	3/28/05	6,040,153	6,000,000	$ 1.00	
		Senior secured loan ($6,000,000 par due 10/2010)	14.03% (Libor + 9.50%/Q)	3/28/05	6,000,000	6,000,000	$ 1.00	
Qualitor, Inc.	Automotive aftermarket components supplier	Senior secured loan ($827,059 par due 12/2011)	8.27% (Libor + 4.00%/Q)	12/29/04	827,059	827,059	$ 1.00(2)	
		Senior secured loan ($1,152,941 par due 12/2011)	8.53% (Libor + 4.00%/Q)	12/29/04	1,152,941	1,152,941	$ 1.00(2)	
		Junior secured loan ($5,000,000 par due 6/2012)	11.53% (Libor + 7.00%/Q)	12/29/04	5,000,000	5,000,000	$ 1.00(2)	
Reflexite Corporation	Developer and	Senior	11.00% cash, 3.00% PIK	12/30/04	10,304,329	10,304,329	$ 1.00(2)	

manufacturer of high visibility reflective products	subordinated loan ($10,304,329 par due 12/2011)	(3)

Universal Trailer Corporation(5)	Livestock and specialty trailer manufacturer	Senior secured loan ($1,048,960 par due 3/2007)	8.39% (Libor + 4.00%/M)	10/8/04	1,054,725	1,054,725	$	1.01
		Senior subordinated loan ($7,500,000 par due 9/2008)	13.50%	10/8/04	7,522,762	7,528,881	$	1.00
		Common stock (50,000 shares)		10/8/04	6,424,645	3,113,351	$	62.27(4)
		Warrants to purchase 22,208 shares		10/8/04	1,505,776	1,382,826	$	62.27(4)
Varel Holdings, Inc.	Drill bit manufacturer	Senior secured loan ($6,643,750 par due 12/2010)	8.58% (Libor + 4.00%/S)	5/18/05	6,643,750	6,643,750	$	1.00(2)
		Senior secured loan ($2,333,333 par due 12/2010)	8.47% (Libor + 4.00%/Q)	5/18/05	2,333,333	2,333,333	$	1.00(2)
		Senior secured loan ($3,333,333 par due 12/2011)	12.48% (Libor + 8.00%/Q)	5/18/05	3,333,333	3,333,333	$	1.00(2)
		Preferred stock (30,451 shares)		5/18/05	1,046,568	1,046,568	$	34.37(3)
		Common stock (30,451 shares)		5/18/05	3,045	3,045	$	0.10(4)
					59,192,419	55,724,141		9.75%
Consumer Products—Non-Durable								
Making Memories Wholesale, Inc. (6)	Scrapbooking branded products manufacturer	Senior secured loan ($9,143,750 par due 3/2011)	8.50% (Libor + 4.00%/Q)	5/5/05	9,143,750	9,143,750	$	1.00(2)
		Senior subordinated loan ($10,000,000 par due 5/2012)	12.00% cash, 2.50% PIK	5/5/05	10,000,000	10,000,000	$	1.00(3)
		Preferred stock (3,500 shares)		5/5/05	3,685,100	3,685,100	$	1,052.89(3)
Shoes for Crews, LLC	Safety footwear and slip-related mats manufacturer	Senior secured loan ($1,478,167 par due 7/2010)	9.00% (Base Rate + 1.75%/D)	10/8/04	1,486,865	1,486,865	$	1.01(2)
		Senior secured loan ($47,247 par due 7/2010)	7.78% (Libor + 3.25%/Q)	10/8/04	47,525	47,525	$	1.01(2)
Tumi Holdings, Inc.	Branded luggage designer, marketer and distributor	Senior secured loan ($2,500,000 par due 12/2012)	7.28% (Libor + 2.75%/Q)	5/24/05	2,500,000	2,500,000	$	1.00(2)
		Senior secured loan ($5,000,000 par due 12/2013)	7.78% (Libor + 3.25%/Q)	3/14/05	5,000,000	5,000,000	$	1.00(2)
		Senior subordinated loan ($13,008,799 par due 12/2014)	15.53% (Libor + 6.00% cash, 5.00% PIK/Q)	3/14/05	13,008,799	13,008,799	$	1.00(2)(3)
					44,872,039	44,872,039		7.85%
Education								
Lakeland Finance, LLC	Private school operator	Senior secured note ($33,000,000 par due 12/2012)	11.50%	12/13/05	33,000,000	33,000,000	$	1.00
					33,000,000	33,000,000		5.78%
Consumer Products—Durable								
AWTP, LLC	Water treatment services	Junior secured loan ($13,600,000 par due 12/2012)	13.50% (Base Rate + 6.25%/Q)	12/21/05	13,600,000	13,600,000	$	1.00
Berkline/Benchcraft Holdings LLC	Furniture manufacturer and distributor	Junior secured loan ($5,000,000 par due 5/2012)	14.05% (Libor + 10.00%/Q)	11/3/04	5,000,000	4,500,000	$	0.90(2)
		Preferred stock (2,536 shares)		10/8/04	1,046,343	677,643	$	267.21(4)
		Warrants to purchase 483,020 shares		10/8/04	2,752,559	1,782,640	$	3.69(4)
					22,398,902	20,560,283		3.60%

Financial							
Foxe Basin CLO 2003, Ltd.	Collateralized debt obligation	Preference shares (3,000 shares)	10/8/04	2,743,440	2,743,440	$ 914.48(8) (9)	

Hudson Straits CLO 2004, Ltd.	Collateralized debt obligation	Preference shares (5,750 shares)		10/8/04	5,217,331	5,143,121	$ 894.46(8) (9)	
MINCS-Glace Bay, Ltd.	Collateralized debt obligation	Secured notes ($9,500,000 par due 7/2014)	7.79% (Libor + 3.60%/Q)	10/8/04	9,019,819	9,500,000	$ 1.00(8) (9)	
					16,980,590	17,386,561		3.04%
Printing, Publishing and Broadcasting								
Canon Communications LLC	Print publications services	Junior secured loan ($16,250,000 par due 11/2011)	12.03% (Libor + 7.50%/Q)	5/25/05	16,250,000	16,250,000	$ 1.00(2)	
					16,250,000	16,250,000		2.84%
Aerospace & Defense								
ILC Industries, Inc.	Industrial products provider	Junior secured loan ($6,500,000 par due 8/2012)	10.28% (Libor + 5.75%/Q)	8/30/05	6,529,232	6,500,000	$ 1.00	
Thermal Solutions LLC	Thermal management and electronics packaging manufacturer	Senior secured loan ($5,973,529 par due 3/2011)	9.71% (Libor + 5.25%/Q)	3/28/05	5,973,529	5,973,529	$ 1.00(2)	
		Senior subordinated loan ($3,062,766 par due 3/2012)	11.50% cash, 2.75% PIK	3/28/05	3,067,225	3,062,766	$1.00 (2) (3)	
		Preferred stock (29,400 shares)		3/28/05	294,000	294,000	$ 10.00(4)	
		Common stock (600,000 shares)		3/28/05	6,000	6,000	$ 0.01(4)	
					15,869,986	15,836,295		2.77%
Cargo Transport								
Kenan Advantage Group, Inc.	Fuel transportation provider	Senior subordinated loan ($8,870,968 par due 12/2013)	13.00%	12/15/05	8,870,968	8,870,968	$ 1.00	
		Senior secured loan ($2,500,000 par due 12/2011)	7.50% (Libor + 3.00%/Q)	12/15/05	2,500,000	2,500,000	$ 1.00	
		Preferred stock (10,984 shares)		12/15/05	1,098,400	1,098,400	$ 100.00(4)	
		Common stock (30,575 shares)		12/15/05	30,575	30,575	$ 1.00(4)	
					12,499,943	12,499,943		2.19%
Farming and Agriculture								
The GSI Group, Inc.	Agricultural equipment manufacturer	Senior notes ($10,000,000 par due 5/2013)	12.00%	5/11/05	10,000,000	10,000,000	$ 1.00	
		Common stock (7,500 shares)		5/12/05	750,000	750,000	$ 100.00(4)	
					10,750,000	10,750,000		1.88%
Housing—Building Materials								
HB&G Building Products	Synthetic and wood product manufacturer	Senior subordinated loan ($8,439,529 par due 3/2011)	13.00% cash, 4.00% PIK	10/8/04	8,435,645	8,439,529	$ 1.00(2) (3)	
		Common stock (2,743 shares)		10/8/04	752,888	752,888	$ 274.48(4)	
		Warrants to purchase 4,464 shares		10/8/04	652,503	652,503	$ 146.17(4)	
					9,841,036	9,844,920		1.72%

Cable Television								
Patriot Media & Communications CNJ, LLC	Cable services	Junior secured loan ($5,000,000 par due 10/2013)	9.50% (Libor + 5.00%/Q)	10/6/05	5,000,000	5,000,000	$ 1.00	
					5,000,000	5,000,000		0.88%
Healthcare—Medical Products								
Aircast, Inc.	Manufacturer of orthopedic braces, supports and vascular systems	Senior secured loan ($1,251,902 par due 12/2010)	7.20% (Libor + 2.75%/Q)	12/2/04	1,251,902	1,251,902	$ 1.00(2)	
	Junior secured loan ($1,000,000 par due 6/2011)	11.45% (Libor + 7.00%/Q)		12/2/04	1,000,000	1,000,000	$ 1.00(2)	
					2,251,902	2,251,902		0.39%
Total					$ 581,351,865	$ 585,968,375		

(1) We do not "Control" any of our portfolio companies, as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940. In general, under the 1940 Act, we would "Control" a portfolio company if we owned 25% or more of its voting securities. All of our portfolio company investments are subject to legal restriction on sales which as of December 31, 2005 represented 103% of the Company's net assets.

(2) Pledged as collateral for the credit facility payable (see Note 7 to the consolidated financial statements).

(3) Has a payment-in-kind interest feature (see Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements).

(4) Non-income producing at December 31, 2005.

(5) As defined in the 1940 Act, we are an "Affiliate" of this portfolio company because we own more than 5% of the portfolio company's outstanding voting securities. For the year ended December 31, 2005, for this portfolio company there were total purchases of $2,000,000, redemptions of $2,919,939 (cost), interest income of $1,147,137, other income of $143,667, net realized losses of $4,278 and net unrealized losses of $3,429,198.

(6) As defined in the 1940 Act, we are an "Affiliate" of this portfolio company because we own more than 5% of the portfolio company's outstanding voting securities. For the year ended December 31, 2005, for this portfolio company there were total purchases of $26,000,000, sales of $3,000,000 (cost), redemptions of $237,500 (cost), interest income of $1,514,431, capital structuring services fees of $862,500 and other income of $2,068.

(7) As defined in the 1940 Act, we are an "Affiliate" of this portfolio company because we own more than 5% of the portfolio company's outstanding voting securities. For the year ended December 31, 2005, for this portfolio company there were total purchases of $54,647,808, total sales of $19,000,000 (cost), redemptions of $706,069 (cost) interest income of $943,631, capital structuring services fees of $1,058,750 and other income of $44,426.

(8) Non-U.S. company or principal place of business outside the U.S.

(9) Non-registered investment company.

(10) A majority of the variable rate loans to our portfolio companies bear interest at a rate that may be determined by reference to either Libor or an alternate Base Rate (commonly based on the Federal Funds Rate or the Prime Rate), at the borrower's option, which reset semi-annually (S), quarterly (Q), monthly (M) or daily (D). For each such loan, we have provided the current interest rate in effect at December 31, 2005.

ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

	For the three months ended March 31, 2006 (unaudited)	For the three months ended March 31, 2005 (unaudited)
INVESTMENT INCOME:		
From non-control/non-affiliate investments:		
Interest from investments	$ 15,051,133	$ 4,920,655
Interest from cash & cash equivalents	231,229	30,356
Capital structuring service fees	1,746,205	303,750
Other income	42,543	59,396
Total investment income from non-control/non-affiliate investments	17,071,110	5,314,157
From affiliate investments:		
Interest from investments	2,476,932	310,593
Capital structuring service fees	583,810	—
Other income	59,453	125,842
Total investment income from affiliate investments	3,120,195	436,435
Total investment income	20,191,305	5,750,592
EXPENSES:		
Base management fees	2,543,659	814,712
Incentive management fees	2,922,884	270,284
Administrative	177,537	233,272
Professional fees	471,451	164,994
Directors fees	63,250	72,165
Insurance	188,101	142,813
Interest and credit facility fees	1,322,310	375,290
Interest payable to the Investment Adviser	25,879	51,725
Amortization of debt issuance costs	407,310	65,690
Other	168,509	29,818
Total expenses	8,290,890	2,220,763
NET INVESTMENT INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES	11,900,415	3,529,829
Income tax expense, including excise tax	208,880	—
NET INVESTMENT INCOME	11,691,535	3,529,829
REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN ON INVESTMENTS:		
Net realized gains (losses):		
Net realized gains from non-control/non-affiliate investment transactions	563,603	409,180
Net realized gains (losses) from affiliate investment transactions	47,283	(150)
Net realized gains from investment transactions	610,886	409,030
Net unrealized gains (losses):		
Investment transactions from non-control/non-affiliate investments	3,985,530	4,566,231
Investment transactions from affiliate investments	(2,444,918)	(1,184)
Net unrealized gains from investment transactions	1,540,612	4,565,047
Net realized and unrealized gain on investments	2,151,498	4,974,077
NET INCREASE IN STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS	$ 13,843,033	$ 8,503,906
BASIC AND DILUTED EARNINGS PER COMMON SHARE (see Note 4)	$ 0.36	$ 0.69

WEIGHTED AVERAGE SHARES OF COMMON STOCK OUTSTANDING (see Note 4)	37,988,700	12,275,457

ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

For the Three Months Ended March 31, 2006 (unaudited)

	Common Stock		Capital in Excess of Par Value	Distributions Less Than (in Excess of) Net Investment Income	Accumulated Net Realized Gain on Sale of Investments	Net Unrealized Appreciation on Investments	Total Stockholders' Equity
	Shares	Amount					
Balance at December 31, 2005	37,909,484	$ 37,910	$ 559,192,554	$ —	$ 5,765,225	$ 4,616,510	$ 569,612,199
Shares issued in connection with dividend reinvestment plan	97,664	98	1,602,581	—	—	—	1,602,679
Net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations	—	—	—	11,691,535	610,886	1,540,612	13,843,033
Dividend declared ($0.36 per share)	—	—	—	(11,691,535)	(1,991,038)	—	(13,682,573)
Balance at March 31, 2006	38,007,148	$ 38,008	$ 560,795,135	$ —	$ 4,385,073	$ 6,157,122	$ 571,375,338

ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

For the Quarter Ended March 31, 2005 (unaudited)

	Common Stock		Capital in Excess of Par Value	Distributions Less Than (in Excess of) Net Investment Income	Accumulated Net Realized Gain on Sale of Investments	Net Unrealized Appreciation on Investments	Total Stockholders' Equity
	Shares	Amount					
Balance at December 31, 2004	11,066,767	$ 11,067	$ 159,602,706	$ (136,415)	$ —	$ 230,947	$ 159,708,305
Shares issued in connection with dividend reinvestment plan	1,647	2	31,996	—	—	—	31,998
Issuance of common stock from secondary offering (net of offering and underwriting costs)	12,075,000	12,075	183,859,340	—	—	—	183,871,415
Reimbursement of underwriting costs paid by the Investment Adviser (see Note 9)	—	—	(2,475,000)	—	—	—	(2,475,000)
Net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations	—	—	—	3,529,829	409,030	4,565,047	8,503,906
Dividend declared ($0.30 per share)	—	—	—	(2,911,494)	(409,030)	—	(3,320,524)
Balance at March 31, 2005	23,143,414	$ 23,144	$ 341,019,042	$ 481,920	$ —	$ 4,795,994	$ 346,320,100

ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	For the three months ended March 31, 2006 (unaudited)	For the three months ended March 31, 2005 (unaudited)
OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations	$ 13,843,033	$ 8,503,906
Adjustments to reconcile net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations:		
Net realized gain on investment transactions	(610,886)	(409,030)
Net unrealized gain on investment transactions	(1,540,612)	(4,565,047)
Net accretion of discount on securities	(11,229)	1,348
Increase in accrued payment-in-kind dividends and interest	(945,454)	(688,839)
Amortization of debt issuance costs	407,310	65,690
Proceeds from sale and redemption of investments	37,898,214	15,824,788
Purchases of investments	(200,910,725)	(50,972,688)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Interest receivable	(2,130,079)	(761,438)
Other assets	(210,999)	104,969
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	431,963	(527,425)
Management and incentive fees payable	1,988,509	810,339
Interest and facility fees payable	927,531	279,114
Interest payable to the Investment Adviser	(154,078)	51,725
Net cash used in operating activities	(151,017,502)	(32,282,588)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Net proceeds from issuance of common stock	—	183,871,415
Borrowings on credit facility payable	167,200,000	23,500,000
Repayments on credit facility payable	—	(79,000,000)
Underwriting costs payable to the Investment Adviser	(2,475,000)	—
Dividends paid in cash	(11,286,546)	(3,288,032)
Net cash provided by financing activities	153,438,454	125,083,383
CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	2,420,952	92,800,795
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF PERIOD	16,613,334	26,806,160
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF PERIOD	$ 19,034,286	$ 119,606,955
Supplemental Information:		
Interest paid during the period	$ 308,038	$ 60,531
Dividends declared during the period	$ 13,682,573	$ 3,320,524

ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As of March 31, 2006 (unaudited)

1. ORGANIZATION

Ares Capital Corporation (the "Company" or "ARCC" or "we") is a closed-end, non-diversified management investment company incorporated in Maryland that is regulated as a business development company under the Investment Company Act of 1940 ("1940 Act"). We were incorporated on April 16, 2004 and were initially funded on June 23, 2004. On October 8, 2004, we completed our initial public offering (the "IPO"). On the same date, we commenced substantial investment operations.

The Company has qualified and has elected to be treated for tax purposes as a regulated investment company, or RIC, under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. The Company expects to continue to qualify and to elect to be treated for tax purposes as a RIC. Our investment objectives are to generate both current income and capital appreciation through debt and equity investments. We invest primarily in first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt, which in some cases may include an equity component, and, to a lesser extent, in equity investments in private middle market companies.

We are externally managed by Ares Capital Management LLC (the "Investment Adviser"), an affiliate of Ares Management LLC ("Ares Management"), an independent Los Angeles based firm that manages investment funds. Ares Technical Administration LLC ("Ares Administration"), an affiliate of Ares Management, provides the administrative services necessary for us to operate.

Interim financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") for interim financial information and pursuant to the requirements for reporting on Form 10-Q and Article 10 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, certain disclosures accompanying financial statements prepared in accordance with GAAP are omitted. In the opinion of management, all adjustments, consisting solely of normal recurring accruals, considered necessary for the fair presentation of financial statements for the interim period, have been included. The current period's results of operations will not necessarily be indicative of results that ultimately may be achieved for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2006.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Presentation

The accompanying consolidated financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, and include the accounts of the Company and its wholly owned subsidiaries. The consolidated financial statements reflect all adjustments and reclassifications which, in the opinion of management, are necessary for the fair presentation of the results of the operations and financial condition for the periods presented. All significant intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include short-term, liquid investments in a money market fund. Cash and cash equivalents are carried at cost which approximates fair value.

Concentration of Credit Risk

The Company places its cash and cash equivalents with financial institutions and, at times, cash held in money market accounts may exceed the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation insured limit.

Investments

Investment transactions are recorded on the trade date. Realized gains or losses are computed using the specific identification method. We carry our investments at fair value, as determined by our board of directors. Investments for which market quotations are readily available are valued at such market quotations. Debt and equity securities that are not publicly traded or whose market price is not readily available are valued at fair value as determined in good faith by our board of directors based on the input of our investment adviser and audit committee and, where appropriate, an independent valuation firm. The types of factors that we may take into account in fair value pricing of our investments include, as relevant, the nature and realizable value of any collateral, the portfolio company's ability to make payments and its earnings and discounted cash flow, the markets in which the portfolio company does business, comparison to publicly traded securities and other relevant factors.

When an external event such as a purchase transaction, public offering or subsequent equity sale occurs, we use the pricing indicated by the external event to corroborate our private equity valuation. Because there is not a readily available market value for most of the investments in our portfolio, we value substantially all of our portfolio investments at fair value as determined in good faith by our board under a valuation policy and a consistently applied valuation process. Due to the inherent uncertainty of determining the fair value of investments that do not have a readily available market value, the fair value of our investments may differ significantly from the values that would have been used had a ready market existed for such investments, and the differences could be material.

With respect to investments for which market quotations are not readily available, our board of directors undertakes a multi-step valuation process each quarter, as described below:

- Our quarterly valuation process begins with each portfolio company or investment being initially valued by the investment professionals responsible for the portfolio investment.
- Preliminary valuation conclusions are then documented and discussed with our senior management.
- The audit committee of our board of directors reviews these preliminary valuations. Where appropriate, the committee may utilize an independent valuation firm selected by the board of directors.
- The board of directors discusses valuations and determines the fair value of each investment in our portfolio in good faith based on the input of our investment adviser and audit committee and, where appropriate, an independent valuation firm.

Interest Income Recognition

Interest income, adjusted for amortization of premium and accretion of discount, is recorded on an accrual basis to the extent that such amounts are expected to be collected. The Company stops accruing interest on its investments when it is determined that interest is no longer collectible. If any cash is received after it is determined that interest is no longer collectible, we will treat the cash as payment on the principal balance until the entire principal balance has been repaid, before any interest income is recognized. Discounts and premiums on securities purchased are accreted/amortized over the life of the respective security using the effective yield method. The amortized cost of investments represents the original cost adjusted for the accretion of discounts and amortizations of premium on bonds.

Payment in Kind Interest

The Company has loans in its portfolio that contain a payment-in-kind ("PIK") provision. The PIK interest, computed at the contractual rate specified in each loan agreement, is added to the principal balance of the loan and recorded as interest income. To maintain the Company's status as a RIC, this non-cash source of income must be paid out to stockholders in the form of dividends, even though the Company has not yet collected the cash. For the three months ended March 31, 2006, $945,454 in PIK income was recorded. For the three months ended March 31, 2005, $688,839 in PIK income was recorded.

Capital Structuring Service Fees

The Company's Investment Adviser seeks to provide assistance to the portfolio companies in connection with the Company's investments and in return the Company may receive fees for capital structuring services. These fees are normally paid at the closing of the investments, are generally non-recurring and are recognized as revenue when earned upon closing of the investment. The services that the Company's Investment Adviser provides vary by investment, but generally consist of reviewing existing credit facilities, arranging bank financing, arranging equity financing, structuring financing from multiple lenders, structuring financing from equity investors, restructuring existing loans, raising equity and debt capital, and providing general financial advice, which concludes upon closing of the loan. The Company's Investment Adviser may also take a seat on the board of directors of a portfolio company, or observe the meetings of the board of directors without taking a formal seat. Any services of the above nature subsequent to the closing would generally generate a separate fee payable to the Company. In certain instances where the Company is invited to participate as a co-lender in a transaction and in the event that the Company does not provide significant services in connection with the investment, a portion of loan fees paid to the Company in such situations may be deferred and amortized over the estimated life of the loan.

Foreign Currency Translation

The Company's books and records are maintained in U.S. dollars. Any foreign currency amounts are translated into U.S. dollars on the following basis:

(1) Market value of investment securities, other assets and liabilities—at the exchange rates prevailing at the end of the day.

(2) Purchases and sales of investment securities, income and expenses—at the rates of exchange prevailing on the respective dates of such transactions.

Although the net assets and the fair values are presented at the foreign exchange rates at the end of the day, the Company does not isolate the portion of the results of the operations resulting from changes in foreign exchange rates on investments from the fluctuations arising from changes in fair value of investments. Such fluctuations are included with the net realized and unrealized gains or losses from investments. Foreign security and currency translations may involve certain considerations and risks not typically associated with investing in U.S. companies and U.S. Government securities. These risks include but are not limited to revaluation of currencies and future adverse political and economic developments which could cause investments in their markets to be less liquid and prices more volatile than those of comparable U.S. companies.

Offering Expenses

The Company's offering costs were charged against the proceeds from the Add-on Offering (as defined in Note 10) when received. For the three months ended March 31, 2005, the Company incurred approximately $635,000 of such costs.

Debt Issuance Costs

Debt issuance costs are being amortized over the life of the related credit facility using the straight line method which approximates the interest method.

Federal Income Taxes

The Company has qualified and elected and intends to continue to qualify for the tax treatment applicable to regulated investment companies under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "Code"), as amended, and, among other things, has made and intends to continue to make the requisite distributions to its stockholders which will relieve the Company from Federal income taxes. In order to qualify as a RIC, among other factors, the Company is required to timely distribute to its stockholders at least 90% of investment company taxable income, as defined by the Code, for each year.

Depending on the level of taxable income earned in a tax year, we may choose to carry forward taxable income in excess of current year dividend distributions into the next tax year and pay a 4% excise tax on such income, as required. To the extent that the Company determines that its estimated current year annual taxable income will be in excess of estimated current year dividend distributions, the Company accrues excise tax, if any, on estimated excess taxable income as taxable income is earned. For the three months ended March 31, 2006, a provision of approximately $99,000

was recorded for Federal excise tax. As of March 31, 2006, the entire amount was unpaid and included in accounts payable on the accompanying consolidated balance sheet.

Our wholly owned subsidiaries ARCC Cervantes Corporation ("ACC") and ARCC Cervantes LLC ("ACLLC") are subject to Federal and state income taxes. For the three months ended March 31, 2006, we recorded a tax provision of approximately $110,000 for these subsidiaries.

Dividends

Dividends and distributions to common stockholders are recorded on the record date. The amount to be paid out as a dividend is determined by the board of directors each quarter and is generally based upon the earnings estimated by management. Net realized capital gains, if any, are generally distributed at least annually, although we may decide to retain such capital gains for investment.

We have adopted a dividend reinvestment plan that provides for reinvestment of our distributions on behalf of our stockholders, unless a stockholder elects to receive cash. As a result, if our board of directors authorizes, and we declare, a cash dividend, then our stockholders who have not "opted out" of our dividend reinvestment plan will have their cash dividends automatically reinvested in additional shares of our common stock, rather than receiving the cash dividends.

Use of Estimates in the Preparation of Financial Statements

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of actual and contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of income or loss and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Significant estimates include the valuation of investments.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The carrying value of the Company's financial instruments approximate fair value. The carrying value of interest and open trade receivables, accounts payable and accrued expenses, as well as the credit facility payable approximate fair value due to their short maturity.

3. AGREEMENTS

The Company has entered into an investment advisory agreement (the "Advisory Agreement") with the Investment Adviser under which the Investment Adviser, subject to the overall supervision of our board of directors, provides investment advisory services to ARCC. For providing these services, the Investment Adviser receives a fee from us, consisting of two components—a base management fee and an incentive fee. The base management fee is calculated at an annual rate of 1.5% of our total assets (other than cash or cash equivalents but including assets purchased with borrowed funds). For services rendered under the Advisory Agreement during the period commencing from October 8, 2004 through and including December 31, 2004, the base management fee is payable monthly in arrears. For services rendered under the Advisory Agreement after that time, the base management fee is payable quarterly in arrears. The base management fee is calculated based on the average value of our total

assets (other than cash or cash equivalents but including assets purchased with borrowed funds) at the end of the two most recently completed calendar quarters.

The incentive fee has two parts. One part is calculated and payable quarterly in arrears based on our pre-incentive fee net investment income. Pre-incentive fee net investment income means interest income, dividend income and any other income (including any other fees such as commitment, origination, structuring, diligence and consulting fees or other fees that we receive from portfolio companies but excluding fees for providing managerial assistance) accrued during the calendar quarter, minus operating expenses for the quarter (including the base management fee, any expenses payable under the administration agreement, and any interest expense and dividends paid on any outstanding preferred stock, but excluding the incentive fee). Pre-incentive fee net investment income includes, in the case of investments with a deferred interest feature such as market discount, debt instruments with payment-in-kind interest, preferred stock with payment-in-kind dividends and zero coupon securities, accrued income that we have not yet received in cash. The Investment Adviser is not under any obligation to reimburse us for any part of the incentive fee it received that was based on accrued income that we never received as a result of a default by an entity on the obligation that resulted in the accrual of such income.

Pre-incentive fee net investment income does not include any realized capital gains, realized capital losses or unrealized capital appreciation or depreciation. Pre-incentive fee net investment income, expressed as a rate of return on the value of our net assets at the end of the immediately preceding calendar quarter, is compared to a fixed "hurdle rate" of 2.00% per quarter.

We pay the Investment Adviser an incentive fee with respect to our pre-incentive fee net investment income in each calendar quarter as follows:

- no incentive fee in any calendar quarter in which the pre-incentive fee net investment income does not exceed the hurdle rate;
- 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 2.50% in any calendar quarter. We refer to this portion of our pre-incentive fee net investment income (which exceeds the hurdle rate but is less than 2.50%) as the "catch-up" provision. The "catch-up" is meant to provide our Investment Adviser with 20% of the pre-incentive fee net investment income as if a hurdle rate did not apply if this net investment income exceeds 2.50% in any calendar quarter; and
- 20% of the amount of our pre-incentive fee net investment income, if any, that exceeds 2.50% in any calendar quarter.

These calculations are adjusted for any share issuances or repurchases during the quarter.

The second part of the incentive fee is determined and payable in arrears as of the end of each calendar year (or upon termination of the Advisory Agreement, as of the termination date), commencing with the calendar year ending on December 31, 2004, and equals 20% of our realized capital gains for the calendar year, if any, computed net of all realized capital losses and unrealized capital depreciation for such year.

Last year, as part of an industry sweep, the Fort Worth District Office of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "District Office") conducted a limited scope examination of the Company. As a result of this examination, by letter dated September 29, 2005, the District Office—while noting that the fees we have already paid to our investment adviser do not appear to exceed those allowable by law—raised issues regarding the clarity of the Advisory Agreement and certain aspects of our method of calculation of the capital gains portion of the incentive fee contained in that agreement.

The District Office's letter noted that the Chief Accountant's Office of the Division of Investment Management has interpreted the language in Section 205(b)(3)(A) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 to generally allow two basic methodologies for calculating the capital gains portion of the incentive fee. The first, called the "period-to-period" method, bases the capital gains fee on realized capital gains net of realized capital losses over a specified period (e.g., one year) reduced by the amount of unrealized depreciation over the same period. Under the period-to-period method, the calculation of unrealized depreciation of each portfolio security over the period must be based upon the market value at the end of the period compared to the market value at the beginning of the period. The second, called the "cumulative" method, bases the capital gains fee on the cumulative net realized capital gains less unrealized depreciation as of the date of the calculation, less the amount of fees paid to the adviser to date. Under the cumulative method, the calculation of unrealized depreciation of each portfolio security must be based upon the market value of each security as of the date of such calculation compared to its adjusted cost.

We intended to use the cumulative method to calculate the capital gains portion of the incentive fee. However, the District Office raised issues regarding the clarity of the language in our Advisory Agreement. In response the Investment Adviser has agreed that in calculating payments of the capital gains portion of the incentive fee, we would use the calculation that results in the lowest incentive fee payment to the Investment Adviser until our next stockholder meeting, where we would seek the vote of our stockholders to clarify or amend and restate the Advisory Agreement to make our method of calculation clear. We do not expect that the resolution of this inquiry will result in a material adverse effect on us or our stockholders.

We defer cash payment of any incentive fee otherwise earned by the 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) the aggregate distributions to the stockholders and (b) the change in net assets (defined as total assets less indebtedness) is less than 8.0% of our net assets at the beginning of such period. These calculations are appropriately pro rated during the first three calendar quarters following October 8, 2004 and are adjusted for any share issuances or repurchases.

For the three months ended March 31, 2006, we incurred $2,543,659 in base management fees, $2,922,884 in incentive management fees related to pre-incentive fee net investment income and no incentive management fees related to realized capital gains. As of March 31, 2006, $5,466,543 was unpaid and included in management and incentive fees payable in the accompanying consolidated balance sheet.

For the three months ended March 31, 2005, we incurred $814,712 in base management fees, $237,741 in incentive management fees related to pre-incentive fee net investment income and $32,543 in incentive management fees related to realized capital gains.

We also are party to a separate administration agreement (the "Administration Agreement") with Ares Administration under which Ares Administration furnishes us with office facilities, equipment and clerical, bookkeeping and record keeping services at such facilities. Under the Administration Agreement, Ares Administration also performs or oversees the performance of our required administrative services, which include, among other things, being responsible for the financial records which we are required to maintain and preparing reports to our stockholders and reports filed with the SEC. In addition, Ares Administration assists us in determining and publishing the net asset value, oversees the preparation and filing of our tax returns and the printing and dissemination of reports to our stockholders, and generally oversees the payment of our expenses and the performance of administrative and professional services rendered to us by others. Under the Administration Agreement, Ares Administration also provides on our behalf, managerial assistance to those portfolio companies to which we are required to provide such assistance. The Administration Agreement may be terminated by either party without penalty upon 60-days' written notice to the other party.

For the three months ended March 31, 2006, we incurred $177,537 in administrative fees. As of March 31, 2006, $177,537 was unpaid and included in accounts payable and accrued expenses in the accompanying consolidated balance sheet.

For the three months ended March 31, 2005, we incurred $233,272 in administrative fees.

4. EARNINGS PER SHARE

The following information sets forth the computation of basic and diluted net increase in stockholders' equity per share resulting from the three months ended March 31, 2006:

Numerator for basic and diluted net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations per share:	$	13,843,033
Denominator for basic and diluted net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations per share:		37,988,700
Basic and diluted net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations per share:	$	0.36

The following information sets forth the computation of basic and diluted net increase in stockholders' equity per share resulting from the three months ended March 31, 2005:

Numerator for basic and diluted net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations per share:	$	8,503,906
Denominator for basic and diluted net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations per share:		12,275,457
Basic and diluted net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations per share:	$	0.69

5. INVESTMENTS

For the three months ended March 31, 2006, the Company purchased (A) $151.5 million aggregate principal amount of senior term debt, (B) $31.6 million aggregate principal amount of senior subordinated debt and (C) $12.3 million of investments in equity securities.

In addition, for the three months ended March 31, 2006, (1) $17.9 million aggregate principal amount of senior subordinated debt and (2) $3.5 million aggregate principal amount of senior term debt were redeemed. Additionally, (A) $9.1 million of investments in equity securities and (B) $6.1 million aggregate principal amount of senior term debt were sold.

As of March 31, 2006, investments and cash and cash equivalents consisted of the following:

	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 19,034,286	$ 19,034,286
Senior term debt	480,983,164	480,455,437
Senior notes	10,000,000	10,000,000
Senior subordinated debt	144,282,332	144,489,390
Collateralized debt obligations	16,781,902	17,184,257
Equity securities	88,940,628	95,016,065
Total	$ 760,022,313	$ 766,179,435

As of December 31, 2005, investments and cash and cash equivalents consisted of the following:

	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 16,613,334	$ 16,613,334
Senior term debt	338,993,970	338,467,061
Senior notes	10,000,000	10,000,000
Senior subordinated debt	129,816,927	130,042,698
Collateralized debt obligations	16,980,590	17,386,561
Equity securities	85,560,378	90,072,055
Total	$ 597,965,199	$ 602,581,709

The amortized cost represents the original cost adjusted for the accretion of discounts and amortization of premiums on debt using the effective interest method.

The industry and geographic compositions of the portfolio at fair value at March 31, 2006 and December 31, 2005 were as follows:

Industry	March 31, 2006	December 31, 2005
Health Care	13.0%	13.1%
Consumer Products	13.0	11.2
Other Services	12.3	12.0
Restaurants	8.9	10.6
Environmental Services	8.7	11.0
Containers/Packaging	8.1	12.0
Education	7.9	5.6
Manufacturing	7.1	9.5
Printing/Publishing	4.8	2.8
Broadcasting/Cable	3.4	0.9
Computers/Electronics	2.5	0.0
Aerospace and Defense	2.4	2.7
Financial	2.3	3.0
Cargo Transport	1.7	2.1
Farming and Agriculture	1.4	1.8
Beverage/Food/Tobacco	1.3	0.0
Homebuilding	1.2	1.7
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Geographic Region	March 31, 2006	December 31, 2005
West	36.1%	38.9%
Mid-Atlantic	19.7	24.3
Southeast	18.5	10.2
Midwest	11.0	12.3
Northeast	9.9	11.3
International	4.8	3.0
Total	100.0%	100.0%

6. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

As of March 31, 2006, the Company had committed to make a total of approximately $63.0 million of investments in various revolving senior secured loans. As of March 31, 2006, $37.5 million was unfunded. Included within the $63.0 million commitment in revolving secured loans is a commitment to issue up to $3.2 million in standby letters of credit through a financial intermediary on behalf of a portfolio company. Under these arrangements, the Company would be required to make payments to third-party beneficiaries if the portfolio company was to default on its related payment obligations. As of March 31, 2006, the Company had $2.3 million in standby letters of credit issued and outstanding on behalf of the portfolio company, of which no amounts were recorded as a liability. These letters of credit expire on September 30, 2006, but may be extended under substantially similar

terms for additional one-year terms at the Company's option until the revolving line of credit, under which the letters of credit were issued, matures on September 30, 2011.

As of December 31, 2005, the Company had committed to make a total of approximately $43.0 million of investments in various revolving senior secured loans. As of December 31, 2005, $28.8 million was unfunded. Included within the $43.0 million commitment in revolving secured loans is a commitment to issue up to $3.2 million in standby letters of credit through a financial intermediary on behalf of a portfolio company. Under these arrangements, the Company would be required to make payments to third-party beneficiaries if the portfolio company was to default on its related payment obligations. As of December 31, 2005, the Company had $2.2 million in standby letters of credit issued and outstanding on behalf of the portfolio company, of which no amounts were recorded as a liability.

7. CREDIT FACILITIES PAYABLE

In accordance with the 1940 Act, with certain limited exceptions, we are only allowed to borrow amounts such that our asset coverage, as defined in the 1940 Act, is at least 200% after such borrowing. On October 29, 2004, we formed Ares Capital CP Funding LLC ("Ares Capital CP"), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company, through which we established a revolving credit facility (the "CP Funding Facility"). On November 3, 2004, we entered into the CP Funding Facility that, as amended, allows Ares Capital CP to issue up to $350.0 million of variable funding certificates ("VFC"). As part of the CP Funding Facility, we are subject to limitations as to how borrowed funds may be used including restrictions on geographic concentrations, sector concentrations, loan size, payment frequency and status, average life, collateral interests and investment ratings as well as regulatory restrictions on leverage which may affect the amount of VFC that we may issue from time to time. There are also certain requirements relating to portfolio performance, including required minimum portfolio yield and limitations on delinquencies and charge-offs, violation of which could result in the early amortization of the CP Funding Facility and limit further advances under the CP Funding Facility and in some cases could be an event of default. Such limitations, requirements, and associated defined terms are as provided for in the documents governing the CP Funding Facility. As of March 31, 2006, there was $109.2 million outstanding under the CP Funding Facility and the Company continues to be in compliance with all of the limitations and requirements of the CP Funding Facility. As of December 31, 2005 there was $18.0 million outstanding under the CP Funding Facility.

The CP Funding Facility expires on November 1, 2006. If the CP Funding Facility is not extended beyond November 1, 2006, any principal amounts then outstanding will be amortized over a 24-month period from the termination date. Under the terms of the CP Funding Facility, we are required to pay a renewal fee of 0.375% of the total amount available for borrowing on or around each November 3.

The interest charged on the VFC is based on the commercial paper rate plus 0.75%. The interest charged on the VFC is payable quarterly. As of March 31, 2006 the commercial paper rate was 4.7045% and as of December 31, 2005 the commercial paper rate was 4.3223%. For the three months ended March 31, 2006 and March 31, 2005, the average interest rate (i.e. commercial paper rate plus the spread) was 5.28% and 3.78%, respectively. For the three months ended March 31, 2006 and March 31, 2005, the average outstanding balance was $69,448,889 and $34,444,444, respectively. For the three months ended March 31, 2006 and March 31, 2005, the interest expense incurred was $925,837

and $324,734, respectively. Cash paid for interest expense during the three months ended March 31, 2006 and March 31, 2005 was $221,634 and $60,531, respectively.

The Company is also required to pay a commitment fee for any unused portion of the CP Funding Facility. Initially, the commitment fee was 0.175% per annum. On April 8, 2005 the Company entered into an amendment to the CP Funding Facility and in connection therewith, the commitment fee was temporarily reduced to 0.11% per annum until the earlier of (a) the date the total borrowings outstanding exceed $150.0 million or (b) October 3, 2005, after which the commitment fee was 0.175% per annum. On November 14, 2005 the Company entered into an amendment to the CP Funding Facility and in connection therewith, the commitment fee was reduced to 0.10% per annum prior to the first time that the borrowings outstanding under the CP Funding Facility equal or exceed $200.0 million and 0.125% per annum on and after the first time that the borrowings outstanding under the CP Funding Facility exceed $200.0 million. For the three months ended March 31, 2006 and March 31, 2005, the commitment fee incurred was $70,138 and $50,566, respectively.

In December 2005, we entered into a new senior secured revolving credit facility (the "Revolving Credit Facility") under which the lenders have agreed to extend credit to Ares Capital in an initial aggregate principal amount not exceeding $250 million at any one time outstanding. The Revolving Credit Facility expires on December 28, 2010 and with certain exceptions is secured by substantially all of the assets in our portfolio (other than investments held by Ares Capital CP under the CP Funding Facility). Under the Revolving Credit Facility, we have made certain representations and warranties and are required to comply with various covenants, reporting requirements and other customary requirements for similar revolving credit facilities, including, without limitation, covenants related to: (a) limitations on the incurrence of additional indebtedness and liens, (b) limitations on certain investments, (c) limitations on certain restricted payments, (d) maintaining a certain minimum stockholders' equity, (e) maintaining a ratio of total assets (less total liabilities) to total indebtedness, of Ares Capital and its subsidiaries, of not less than 2.0:1.0, (f) maintaining minimum liquidity, and (g) limitations on the creation or existence of agreements that prohibit liens on certain properties of Ares Capital and its subsidiaries.

In addition to the asset coverage ratio described above, borrowings under the Revolving Credit Facility (and the incurrence of certain other permitted debt) will be subject to compliance with a borrowing base that will apply different advance rates to different types of assets in our portfolio. The Revolving Credit Facility also includes an "accordion" feature that allows us to increase the size of the Revolving Credit Facility to a maximum of $500 million under certain circumstances. The Revolving Credit Facility also includes usual and customary events of default for senior secured revolving credit facilities of this nature. As of March 31, 2006, there was $76.0 million outstanding under the Revolving Credit Facility and the Company continues to be in compliance with all of the limitations and requirements of the Revolving Credit Facility. As of December 31, 2005, there were no amounts outstanding under the Revolving Credit Facility.

The interest charged under the Revolving Credit Facility is based on LIBOR (one, two, three or six month) plus 1.00%, generally. As of March 31, 2006, the one, two, three and six month LIBOR were 4.83%, 4.93%, 5.00% and 5.14%, respectively. For the three months ended March 31, 2006, the average interest rate was 6.15%. For the three months ended March 31, 2006, the average outstanding balance was $13,466,667. For the three months ended March 31, 2006, the interest expense incurred

was $204,261. Cash paid for interest expense during the three months ended March 31, 2006 was $86,404. As of December 31, 2005, the one, two, three and six month LIBOR were 4.39%, 4.48%, 4.54% and 4.70%, respectively. The Company is also required to pay a commitment fee of 0.20% for any unused portion of the Revolving Credit Facility. For the three months ended March 31, 2006, the commitment fee incurred was $114,578.

8. DERIVATIVE INSTRUMENTS

In 2005, we entered into a costless collar agreement in order to manage the exposure to changing interest rates related to the Company's fixed rate investments. The costless collar agreement is for a notional amount of $20 million, has a cap of 6.5%, a floor of 2.72% and matures in 2008. The costless collar agreement allows us to receive an interest payment for any quarterly period when the 3-month LIBOR exceeds 6.5%, and requires us to pay an interest payment for any quarterly period when the 3-month LIBOR is less than 2.72%. The costless collar resets quarterly based on the 3-month LIBOR. As of March 31, 2006, the 3-month LIBOR was 5.00%. As of March 31, 2006 these derivatives had no fair value.

9. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Gross underwriting costs related to the IPO were $7,425,000 or $0.675 per share. As a part of the IPO, the Investment Adviser, on our behalf, agreed to pay the underwriters $0.225 of the $0.675 per share in underwriting discount and commissions for a total of approximately $2.5 million. We were obligated to repay this amount, together with accrued interest (charged at the 3-month LIBOR plus 2% starting on October 8, 2004) (a) if during any four calendar quarter period ending on or after October 8, 2005 the sum of (i) the aggregate distributions, including return of capital, if any, to the stockholders and (ii) the change in net assets (defined as total assets less indebtedness) equals or exceeds 7.0% of the net assets at the beginning of such period (as adjusted for any share issuances or repurchases) or (b) upon the Company's liquidation. On March 8, 2005, the Company's board of directors approved entering into an amended and restated agreement with the Investment Adviser whereby the Company would be obligated to repay the Investment Adviser for the approximate $2.5 million only if the conditions for repayment referred to above were met before the third anniversary of the IPO. If one or more such events did not occur on or before October 8, 2007, we would not be obligated to repay this amount to the Investment Adviser. For the year ended December 31, 2005, the sum of our aggregate distributions to our stockholders and our change in net assets exceeded 7.0% of net assets as of December 31, 2004 (as adjusted for any share issuances). As a result, in February 2006 we repaid this amount together with accrued interest.

In accordance with the Advisory Agreement, we bear all costs and expenses of the operation of the Company and reimburse the Investment Adviser for all such costs and expenses incurred in the operation of the Company. For the three months ended March 31, 2006, the Investment Adviser incurred such expenses totaling $130,135. Accordingly, the Company has recorded a liability at March 31, 2006 to the Investment Adviser for the entire amount not yet reimbursed. As of March 31, 2006, $130,135 was payable to the Investment Adviser and such payable is included in accounts payable and accrued expenses in the accompanying consolidated balance sheet. For the three months ended March 31, 2005, the Investment Adviser incurred such expenses totaling $10,692.

As of March 31, 2006, Ares Management LLC, of which the Investment Adviser is a wholly owned subsidiary, owned 666,667 shares of the Company's common stock representing approximately 1.8% of the total shares outstanding.

See Note 3 for a description of other related party transactions.

10. STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

On March 23, 2005, we completed a public add-on offering (the "Add-on Offering") of 12,075,000 shares of common stock (including the underwriters' overallotment of 1,575,000 shares) at $16.00 per share, less an underwriting discount and commissions totaling $0.72 per share. Total proceeds received from the Add-on Offering, net of the underwriters' discount and offering costs, were $183.9 million.

11. DIVIDEND

For the three months ended March 31, 2006, the Company declared a dividend on February 28, 2006 of $0.36 per share for a total of $13,682,573. The record date was March 24, 2006 and the dividend was distributed on April 14, 2006. For the three months ended March 31, 2005, the Company declared a dividend on February 23, 2005 of $0.30 per share for a total of $3,320,524. The record date was March 7, 2005 and the dividend was distributed on April 15, 2005.

12. FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The following is a schedule of financial highlights for the three months ended March 31, 2006 and for the three months ended March 31, 2005:

Per Share Data:

	For the three months ended March 31, 2006	For the three months ended March 31, 2005
Net asset value, beginning of period (1)	$ 15.03	$ 14.43
Issuance of common stock	—	0.42
Effect of antidilution	—	(0.08)
Underwriting costs paid by the Investment Adviser (see Note 9) (2)	—	(0.20)
Net investment income for period (2)	0.30	0.32
Net realized and unrealized gains for period (2)	0.06	0.37
Net increase in stockholders' equity	0.36	0.83
Distributions from net investment income	(0.30)	(0.26)
Distributions from net realized capital gains on securities	(0.06)	(0.04)
Total distributions to stockholders before return of capital	(0.36)	(0.30)
Net asset value at end of period (1)	$ 15.03	$ 14.96
Per share market value at end of period	$ 17.18	$ 16.40
Total return based on market value (3)	9.15%	(14.05)%
Total return based on net asset value (4)	2.42%	4.77%
Shares outstanding at end of period	38,007,148	23,143,414
Ratio/Supplemental Data:		
Net assets at end of period	$ 571,375,338	$ 346,320,100
Ratio of operating expenses to average net assets (5) (6)	5.84%	4.34%
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets (5)	8.24%	6.89%
Portfolio turnover rate (5)	23%	19%

(1) The net assets used equals the total stockholders' equity on the consolidated balance sheets.

(2) Weighted average basic per share data.

(3) For the three months ended March 31, 2006, the total return based on market value equals the increase of the ending market value at March 31, 2006 of $17.18 per share over the ending market value at December 31, 2005 of $16.07, plus the declared dividend of $0.36 per share for holders of record on March 24, 2006, divided by the market value at December 31, 2005. For the three months ended March 31, 2005, the total return based on market value equals the decrease of the ending market value at March 31, 2005 of $16.40 per share over the ending market value at December 31, 2004 of $19.43, plus the declared dividend of $0.30 per share for holders of record

on March 7, 2005, divided by the market value at December 31, 2004. Total return based on market value is not annualized.

(4) For the three months ended March 31, 2006, the total return based on net asset value equals the change in net asset value during the period plus the declared dividend of $0.36 per share for holders of record on March 24, 2006, divided by the beginning net asset value during the period. The calculation was adjusted for shares issued in connection with dividend reinvestment plan. For the three months ended March 31, 2005, the total return based on net asset value equals the change in net asset value during the period plus the declared dividend of $0.30 per share for holders of record on March 7, 2005, divided by the beginning net asset value during the period. Total return based on net asset value is not annualized.

(5) The ratios reflect an annualized amount.

(6) For the three months ended March 31, 2006, the ratio of operating expenses to average net assets consisted of 1.79% of base management fees, 2.06% of incentive management fees, 1.22% of the cost of borrowing and other operating expenses of 0.77%. For the three months ended March 31, 2005, the ratio of operating expenses to average net assets consisted of 1.59% of base management fees, 0.53% of incentive management fees, 0.86% of the cost of borrowing and other operating expenses of 1.36%. These ratios reflect an annualized amount.

13. IMPACT OF NEW ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

In December 2004, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ("SFAS") 123R, "Share Based Payment, " which requires companies to recognize in the statement of operations the grant date fair value of stock options and other equity based compensation issued to employees. SFAS 123R is effective for annual periods beginning after June 15, 2005. As the Company does not have any options or equity based compensation plans, there was no impact from the adoption of SFAS 123R.


ARES
CAPITAL CORPORATION

PART C

Other information

ITEM 25. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS

(1) Financial Statements

The following statements of Ares Capital Corporation (the "Company" or the "Registrant") are included in Part A of this Registration Statement:

(2) Exhibits

(a)	Articles of Amendment and Restatement(1)
(b)	Amended and Restated Bylaws(1)
(c)	Not Applicable
(d)	Form of Stock Certificate(2)
(e)	Dividend Reinvestment Plan(1)
(f)	Not Applicable
(g)	Investment Advisory and Management Agreement between Registrant and Ares Capital Management LLC(1)
(h)	Form of Underwriting Agreement*
(i)	Not Applicable
(j)	Custodian Agreement between Registrant and U.S. Bank National Association(2)

(k)(1)	Administration Agreement between Registrant and Ares Technical Administration LLC(1)
(k)(2)	Form of Stock Transfer Agency Agreement between Registrant and Computershare Investor Services, LLC(2)
(k)(3)	License Agreement between the Registrant and Ares Management LLC(1)
(k)(4)	Form of Indemnification Agreement between the Registrant and directors and certain officers(2)
(k)(5)	Form of Indemnification Agreement between the Registrant and the members of the Ares Capital Management LLC investment committee(2)
(k)(7)	Purchase and Sale Agreement, dated as of November 3, 2004, by and among Ares Capital Corporation and Ares Capital CP Funding LLC(3)
(k)(8)	Sale and Servicing Agreement, dated as of November 3, 2004, among Ares Capital CP, as borrower, Ares Capital as servicer, certain conduits and institutional lenders agented by Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC, U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee, and Lyon Financial Services, Inc. (D/B/A U.S. Bank Portfolio Services), as the backup servicer(3)
(k)(9)	Amendment No. 2 to Sale and Servicing Agreement, dated as of April 8, 2005, among Ares Capital CP Funding LLC, Ares Capital Corporation, each of the Conduit Purchasers and Institutional Purchasers from time to time party thereto, each of the Purchaser Agents from time to time party thereto, Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC, as administrative agent, U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee, and Lyon Financial Services, Inc. (D/B/A U.S. Bank Portfolio Services), as the backup servicer.(4)
(k)(10)	Amendment No. 3 to Sale and Servicing Agreement, dated as of October 31, 2005, among Ares Capital CP Funding LLC, Ares Capital Corporation, each of the Conduit Purchasers and Institutional Purchasers from time to time party thereto, each of the Purchaser Agents from time to time party thereto, Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC, as administrative agent, U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee, and Lyon Financial Services, Inc. (D/B/A U.S. Bank Portfolio Services), as the backup servicer(5)
(k)(11)	Amendment No. 4 to Sale and Servicing Agreement, dated as of November 14, 2005, among Ares Capital CP Funding LLC, Ares Capital Corporation, each of the Conduit Purchasers and Institutional Purchasers from time to time party thereto, each of the Purchaser Agents from time to time party thereto, Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC, as administrative agent, U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee, and Lyon Financial Services, Inc. (D/B/A U.S. Bank Portfolio Services), as the backup servicer(6)
(k)(12)	Senior Secured Revolving Credit Agreement, dated as of December 28, 2005, among Ares Capital Corporation, the lenders party thereto and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Administrative Agent(7)
(l)	Opinion and Consent of Venable LLP, special Maryland counsel for Registrant*
(m)	Not Applicable
(n)(1)	Consent of independent registered public accounting firm for Registrant*

(n)(2) Opinion of independent registered public accounting firm for Registrant, regarding "senior securities" table contained herein*

(o) Not Applicable

(p) Not Applicable

(q) Not Applicable

(r) Code of Ethics(8)

* Filed herewith.

(1) Incorporated by reference to the corresponding exhibit number to the Registrant's pre-effective Amendment No. 1 to the Registration Statement under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, on Form N-2, filed on September 17, 2004.

(2) Incorporated by reference to the corresponding exhibit number to the Registrant's pre-effective Amendment No. 2 to the Registration Statement under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, on Form N-2, filed on September 28, 2004.

(3) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit Numbers 10.1 and 10.2, as applicable, to the Registrant's Form 8-K, dated as of November 3, 2004.

(4) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit Number 10.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K dated as of April 8, 2005.

(5) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit Number 10.12 to the Registrant's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005.

(6) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit Number 10.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K dated as of November 14, 2005.

(7) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit Number 10.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K dated as of December 28, 2005.

(8) Incorporated by reference to the corresponding exhibit number to the Registrant's pre-effective Amendment No. 1 to the Registration Statement under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, on Form N-2, filed February 7, 2005.

ITEM 26. MARKETING ARRANGEMENTS

The information contained under the heading "Plan of Distribution" on this Registration Statement is incorporated herein by reference and any information concerning any underwriters for a particular offering will be contained in the prospectus supplement related to that offering.

ITEM 27. OTHER EXPENSES OF ISSUANCE AND DISTRIBUTION

Commission registration fee	$	26,750
NASDAQ National Market Listing Fee	$	—**
NASD filing fee	$	—**
Accounting fees and expenses	$	—**
Legal fees and expenses	$	—**
Printing and engraving	$	—**
Miscellaneous fees and expenses	$	—**
Total	$	—**

** To be provided by amendment.

ITEM 28. PERSONS CONTROLLED BY OR UNDER COMMON CONTROL

Direct Subsidiaries

The following list sets forth each of our subsidiaries, the state or country under whose laws the subsidiary is organized, and the percentage of voting securities or membership interests owned by us in such subsidiary:

ARCC Cervantes Corporation (Delaware)	100%
Ares Capital CP Funding LLC (Delaware)	100%

Indirect Subsidiaries

The following list sets forth each of ARCC Cervantes Corporation's subsidiaries, the state under whose laws the subsidiary is organized, and the percentage of voting securities or membership interests owned by ARCC Cervantes Corporation of such subsidiary:

ARCC Cervantes LLC (Delaware)	100%

Each of our direct and indirect subsidiaries is consolidated for financial reporting purposes.

ITEM 29. NUMBER OF HOLDERS OF SECURITIES

The following table sets forth the approximate number of record holders of the Company's common stock at May 4, 2006.

TITLE OF CLASS	NUMBER OF RECORD HOLDERS
Common stock, $0.001 par value	6 (including Cede & Co.)

As of March 31, 2006 we have seven holders of our debt under our Facilities.

ITEM 30. INDEMNIFICATION

Maryland law permits a Maryland corporation to include in its charter a provision limiting the liability of its directors and officers to the corporation and its stockholders for money damages except for liability resulting from (a) actual receipt of an improper benefit or profit in money, property or services or (b) active and deliberate dishonesty established by a final judgment as being material to the

cause of action. Our charter contains such a provision which eliminates directors' and officers' liability to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law, subject to the requirements of the 1940 Act.

Our charter authorizes us, to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law and subject to the requirements of the 1940 Act, to obligate us to indemnify any present or former director or officer or any individual who, while a director or officer and at our request, serves or has served another corporation, real estate investment trust, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise as a director, officer, partner or trustee, from and against any claim or liability to which that person may become subject or which that person may incur by reason of his or her status as a present or former director or officer and to pay or reimburse their reasonable expenses in advance of final disposition of a proceeding. Our bylaws obligate us, to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law and subject to the requirements of the 1940 Act, to indemnify any present or former director or officer or any individual who, while a director or officer and at our request, serves or has served another corporation, real estate investment trust, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise as a director, officer, partner or trustee and who is made or threatened to be made a party to the proceeding by reason of his service in that capacity from and against any claim or liability to which that person may become subject or which that person may incur by reason of his or her status as a present or former director or officer and to pay or reimburse their reasonable expenses in advance of final disposition of a proceeding. The charter and bylaws also permit us to indemnify and advance expenses to any person who served a predecessor of us in any of the capacities described above and any of our employees or agents or any employees or agents of our predecessor. In accordance with the 1940 Act, we will not indemnify any person for any liability to which such person would be subject by reason of such person's willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of his office. In addition to the indemnification provided for in our bylaws, we have entered into indemnification agreements with each of our current directors and officers and with members of our investment adviser's investment committee and we intend to enter into indemnification agreements with each of our future directors and officers. The indemnification agreements attempt to provide these directors and senior officers the maximum indemnification permitted under Maryland law and the 1940 Act. The agreements provide, among other things, for the advancement of expenses and indemnification for liabilities incurred which such person may incur by reason of his status as a present or former director or officer or member of our investment adviser's investment committee in any action or proceeding arising out of the performance of such person's services as a present or former director or officer or member of our investment adviser's investment committee.

Maryland law requires a corporation (unless its charter provides otherwise, which our charter does not) to indemnify a director or officer who has been successful, on the merits or otherwise, in the defense of any proceeding to which he or she is made or threatened to be made a party by reason of his or her service in that capacity. Maryland law permits a corporation to indemnify its present and former directors and officers, among others, against judgments, penalties, fines, settlements and reasonable expenses actually incurred by them in connection with any proceeding to which they may be made or are threatened to be made a party by reason of their service in those or other capacities unless it is established that (a) the act or omission of the director or officer was material to the matter giving rise to the proceeding and (1) was committed in bad faith or (2) was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty, (b) the director or officer actually received an improper personal benefit in money, property or services or (c) in the case of any criminal proceeding, the director or officer had reasonable cause to believe that the act or omission was unlawful. In addition, Maryland law permits a corporation to advance reasonable expenses to a director or officer upon the corporation's receipt of (a) a written affirmation by the director or officer of his or her good faith belief that he or she has met the standard of conduct necessary for indemnification by the corporation and (b) a written undertaking by him or her or on his or her behalf to repay the amount paid or reimbursed by the corporation if it is ultimately determined that the standard of conduct was not met.

The investment advisory and management agreement provides that, absent willful misfeasance, bad faith or gross negligence in the performance of its duties or by reason of the reckless disregard of its duties and obligations, Ares Capital Management LLC (the "Adviser") and its officers, managers, agents, employees, controlling persons, members and any other person or entity affiliated with it are entitled to indemnification from the Company for any damages, liabilities, costs and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees and amounts reasonably paid in settlement) arising from the rendering of the Adviser's services under the investment advisory and management agreement or otherwise as an investment adviser of the Company.

The administration agreement provides that, absent willful misfeasance, bad faith or negligence in the performance of its duties or by reason of the reckless disregard of its duties and obligations, Ares Technical Administration LLC and its officers, manager, agents, employees, controlling persons, members and any other person or entity affiliated with it are entitled to indemnification from the Company for any damages, liabilities, costs and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees and amounts reasonably paid in settlement) arising from the rendering of Ares Technical Administration LLC's services under the administration agreement or otherwise as administrator for the Company.

Insofar as indemnification for liability arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Company pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Company has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Company of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Company in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Company will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

ITEM 31. BUSINESS AND OTHER CONNECTIONS OF INVESTMENT ADVISER

A description of any other business, profession, vocation or employment of a substantial nature in which the Adviser, and each managing director, director or executive officer of the Adviser, is or has been, during the past two fiscal years, engaged in for his or her own account or in the capacity of director, officer, employee, partner or trustee, is set forth in Part A of this Registration Statement in the sections entitled "Management." Additional information regarding the Adviser and its officers and directors will be set forth in its Form ADV, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC File No. 801-63168), and is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 32. LOCATION OF ACCOUNTS AND RECORDS

All accounts, books and other documents required to be maintained by Section 31(a) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, and the rules thereunder are maintained at the offices of:

(1) the Registrant, Ares Capital Corporation, 780 Third Avenue, 46th Floor, New York, New York 10017;

(2) the Transfer Agent, Computershare Investor Services, LLC, 2 N. LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60602;

(3) the Custodian, U.S. Bank National Association, Corporate Trust Services, One Federal Street, 3rd floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110; and

(4) the Adviser, Ares Capital Management LLC 1999 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1900, Los Angeles, California 90067.

ITEM 33. MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Not Applicable.

ITEM 34. UNDERTAKINGS

The Registrant undertakes:

(1) to suspend the offering of shares until the prospectus is amended if (i) subsequent to the effective date of its registration statement, the net asset value declines more than ten percent from its net asset value as of the effective date of the registration statement; or (ii) the net asset value increases to an amount greater than the net proceeds as stated in the prospectus.

(2) to file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) to include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

(ii) to reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the SEC pursuant to Rule 424(b) under the Securities Act of 1933 if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement; and

(iii) to include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement.

(3) that, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, the information omitted from the form of prospectus filed as part of this registration statement in reliance upon Rule 430A and contained in a form of prospectus filed by us under Rule 497(h) under the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of this registration statement as of the time it was declared effective;

(4) to remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering; and

(5) that, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each post effective amendment that contains a form of prospectus shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of the securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant has duly caused this Registration Statement on Form N-2 to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of New York, in the State of New York, on the 12th day of May, 2006.

ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION

By: /s/ MICHAEL J. AROUGHETI

Michael J. Arougheti
President

POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENT, each person whose signature appears below hereby constitutes and appoints Michael J. Arougheti, Daniel F. Nguyen and Kevin A. Frankel, and each of them, his true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him and in his name, place, and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments to this Registration Statement on Form N-2 and any registration statement filed pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act of 1933, and to file the same, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he or she might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents, or their substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities indicated on May 12, 2006. This document may be executed by the signatories hereto on any number of counterparts, all of which constitute one and the same instrument.

SIGNATURE	TITLE
/s/ MICHAEL J. AROUGHETI Michael J. Arougheti	President (principal executive officer)
/s/ DANIEL F. NGUYEN Daniel F. Nguyen	Chief Financial Officer (principal financial officer)
/s/ DOUGLAS E. COLTHARP Douglas E. Coltharp	Director
/s/ FRANK E. O'BRYAN Frank E. O'Bryan	Director
/s/ ROBERT L. ROSEN Robert L. Rosen	Director

/s/ BENNETT ROSENTHAL	Chairman and Director
Bennett Rosenthal	
/s/ ERIC B. SIEGEL	Director
Eric B. Siegel	

EXHIBIT INDEX

(a)	Articles of Amendment and Restatement(1)
(b)	Amended and Restated Bylaws(1)
(c)	Not Applicable
(d)	Form of Stock Certificate(2)
(e)	Dividend Reinvestment Plan(1)
(f)	Not Applicable
(g)	Investment Advisory and Management Agreement between Registrant and Ares Capital Management, L.P.(1)
(h)	Form of Underwriting Agreement*
(i)	Not Applicable
(j)	Custodian Agreement between Registrant and U.S. Bank National Association(2)
(k)(1)	Administration Agreement between Registrant and Ares Technical Administration LLC(1)
(k)(2)	Form of Stock Transfer Agency Agreement between Registrant and Computershare Investor Services, LLC(2)
(k)(3)	License Agreement between the Registrant and Ares Management LLC(1)
(k)(4)	Form of Indemnification Agreement between the Registrant and directors and certain officers(2)
(k)(5)	Form of Indemnification Agreement between the Registrant and the members of the Ares Capital Management LLC investment committee(2)
(k)(7)	Purchase and Sale Agreement, dated as of November 3, 2004, by and among Ares Capital Corporation and Ares Capital CP Funding LLC(3)
(k)(8)	Sale and Servicing Agreement, dated as of November 3, 2004, among Ares Capital CP, as borrower, Ares Capital as servicer, certain conduits and institutional lenders agented by Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC, U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee, and Lyon Financial Services, Inc. (D/B/A U.S. Bank Portfolio Services), as the backup servicer(3)
(k)(9)	Amendment No. 2 to Sale and Servicing Agreement, dated as of April 8, 2005, among Ares Capital CP Funding LLC, Ares Capital Corporation, each of the Conduit Purchasers and Institutional Purchasers from time to time party thereto, each of the Purchaser Agents from time to time party thereto, Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC, as administrative agent, U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee, and Lyon Financial Services, Inc. (D/B/A U.S. Bank Portfolio Services), as the backup servicer.(4)
(k)(10)	Amendment No. 3 to Sale and Servicing Agreement, dated as of October 31, 2005, among Ares Capital CP Funding LLC, Ares Capital Corporation, each of the Conduit Purchasers and Institutional Purchasers from time to time party thereto, each of the Purchaser Agents from time to time party thereto, Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC, as administrative agent, U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee, and Lyon Financial Services, Inc. (D/B/A U.S. Bank Portfolio Services), as the backup servicer(5)

(k)(11)	Amendment No. 4 to Sale and Servicing Agreement, dated as of November 14, 2005, among Ares Capital CP Funding LLC, Ares Capital Corporation, each of the Conduit Purchasers and Institutional Purchasers from time to time party thereto, each of the Purchaser Agents from time to time party thereto, Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC, as administrative agent, U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee, and Lyon Financial Services, Inc. (D/B/A U.S. Bank Portfolio Services), as the backup servicer(6)
(k)(12)	Senior Secured Revolving Credit Agreement, dated as of December 28, 2005, among Ares Capital Corporation, the lenders party thereto and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Administrative Agent(7)
(l)	Opinion and Consent of Venable LLP, special Maryland counsel for Registrant*
(m)	Not Applicable
(n)(1)	Consent of independent registered public accounting firm for Registrant*
(n)(2)	Opinion of independent registered public accounting firm for Registrant, regarding "senior securities" table contained herein*
(o)	Not Applicable
(p)	Not Applicable
(q)	Not Applicable
(r)	Code of Ethics(8)

* Filed herewith.

(1) Incorporated by reference to the corresponding exhibit number to the Registrant's pre-effective Amendment No. 1 to the Registration Statement under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, on Form N-2, filed on September 17, 2004.

(2) Incorporated by reference to the corresponding exhibit number to the Registrant's pre-effective Amendment No. 2 to the Registration Statement under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, on Form N-2, filed on September 28, 2004.

(3) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit Numbers 10.1 and 10.2, as applicable, to the Registrant's Form 8-K, dated as of November 3, 2004.

(4) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit Number 10.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K dated as of April 8, 2005.

(5) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit Number 10.12 to the Registrant's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005.

(6) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit Number 10.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K dated as of November 14, 2005.

(7) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit Number 10.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K dated as of December 28, 2005.

(8) Incorporated by reference to the corresponding exhibit number to the Registrant's pre-effective Amendment No. 1 to the Registration Statement under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, on Form N-2, filed February 7, 2005.

QuickLinks

Exhibit (h)

ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION
(a Maryland corporation)

- Shares of Common Stock

PURCHASE AGREEMENT

Dated:

ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION
(a Maryland corporation)

• Shares of Common Stock
(Par Value $.001 Per Share)

PURCHASE AGREEMENT

[Date]

MERRILL LYNCH & CO.
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated
Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC
Jefferies & Company, Inc.
Legg Mason Wood Walker, Incorporated
RBC Capital Markets Corporation
as Representatives of the several Underwriters
c/o Merrill Lynch & Co.
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated
4 World Financial Center
New York, New York 10080

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Ares Capital Corporation, a Maryland corporation (the "Company"), confirms its agreement with Merrill Lynch & Co., Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated ("Merrill Lynch") and each of the other Underwriters named in Schedule A hereto (collectively, the "Underwriters", which term shall also include any underwriter substituted as hereinafter provided in Section 10 hereof), for whom Merrill Lynch, Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC, Jefferies & Company, Inc., Legg Mason Wood Walker, Incorporated, and RBC Capital Markets Corporation and are acting as representatives (in such capacity, the "Representatives"), with respect to the issue and sale by the Company and the purchase by the Underwriters, acting severally and not jointly, of the respective numbers of shares of Common Stock, par value $.001 per share, of the Company ("Common Stock") set forth in said Schedule A, and with respect to the grant by the Company to the Underwriters, acting severally and not jointly, of the option described in Section 2(b) hereof to purchase all or any part of • additional shares of Common Stock to cover overallotments, if any. The aforesaid • shares of Common Stock (the "Initial Securities") to be purchased by the Underwriters and all or any part of the • shares of Common Stock subject to the option described in Section 2(b) hereof (the "Option Securities") are hereinafter called, collectively, the "Securities".

The Company understands that the Underwriters propose to make a public offering of the Securities as soon as the Representatives deem advisable after this Agreement has been executed and delivered.

The Company has filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") a registration statement on Form N-2 (File No. •), including the related preliminary prospectus or prospectuses, covering the registration of the Securities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "1933 Act"). Promptly after execution and delivery of this Agreement, the Company will prepare and file a prospectus in accordance with the provisions of Rule 430A ("Rule 430A") of the rules and regulations of the Commission under the 1933 Act (the "1933 Act Regulations") and paragraph (h) of Rule 497 ("Rule 497(h)") of the 1933 Act Regulations. The information included in such prospectus that was omitted from such registration statement at the time it became effective but that is deemed to be part of such registration statement at the time it became effective pursuant to paragraph (b) of Rule 430A is referred to as "Rule 430A Information." Each prospectus used before such registration statement became effective, and any prospectus that omitted the Rule 430A Information, that was used after such effectiveness and prior to the execution and delivery of this Agreement, is herein called a "preliminary prospectus." Unless the context otherwise requires, such registration statement, including all documents filed as a part thereof, and including any Rule 430A Information contained in a

prospectus subsequently filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 497(h) under the 1933 Act and deemed to be part of the registration statement at the time of effectiveness and also including the registration statement filed pursuant to Rule 462(b) of the 1933 Act Regulations (File No. •), is herein called the "Registration Statement." The final prospectus in the form filed by the Company with the Commission pursuant to Rule 497(h) under the 1933 Act on or before the second business day after the date hereof (or such earlier time as may be required under the 1933 Act) or, if no such filing is required, the form of final prospectus included in the Registration Statement at the time it became effective, is herein called the "Prospectus." For purposes of this Agreement, all references to the Registration Statement, any preliminary prospectus, the Prospectus or any amendment or supplement to any of the foregoing shall be deemed to include the copy filed with the Commission pursuant to its Electronic Data Gathering, Analysis and Retrieval system ("EDGAR").

A Form N-54A Notification of Election to be Subject to Sections 55 through 65 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 filed Pursuant to Section 54(a) of the Investment Company Act (File No. 814-00663) (the "Notification of Election") was filed with the Commission on April 21, 2004 under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, and the rules and regulations thereunder (collectively, the "1940 Act").

The Company has entered into an Investment Advisory and Management Agreement, dated as of September 30, 2004 (the "Investment Advisory Agreement"), with Ares Capital Management LLC, a Delaware limited liability company registered as an investment adviser (the "Adviser"), under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended, and the rules and regulations thereunder (collectively, the "Advisers Act").

The Company has entered into an Administration Agreement, dated as of September 30, 2004 (the "Administration Agreement"), with Ares Technical Administration LLC, a Delaware limited liability Company (the "Administrator").

SECTION 1. *Representations and Warranties* .

(a) *Representations and Warranties by the Company.* The Company, the Adviser and the Administrator, jointly and severally, represent and warrant to each Underwriter as of the date hereof, as of the Closing Time referred to in Section 2(c) hereof, and as of each Date of Delivery (if any) referred to in Section 2(b) hereof, and agrees with each Underwriter, as follows:

(i) *Compliance with Registration Requirements* . The Company is eligible to use Form N-2. The Registration Statement (and the Registration Statement as amended by any post-effective amendment if the Company shall have made any amendments thereto after the effective date of the Registration Statement) has become effective under the 1933 Act and no stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement (and the Registration Statement as amended by any post-effective amendment if the Company shall have made any amendments thereto after the effective date of the Registration Statement) has been issued under the 1933 Act and no proceedings for that purpose have been instituted or are pending or, to the knowledge of the Company, are contemplated by the Commission, and any request on the part of the Commission for additional information has been complied with.

At the respective times the Registration Statement and any post-effective amendments thereto became effective and at the Closing Time (and, if any Option Securities are purchased, at the Date of Delivery), the Registration Statement complied and will comply in all material respects with the requirements of the 1933 Act, the 1933 Act Regulations and the 1940 Act and did not and will not contain an untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading. Neither the Prospectus nor any amendments or supplements thereto (including any prospectus wrapper), at the time the Prospectus or any such amendment or supplement was issued, and at the Closing Time (and, if any

Option Securities are purchased, at the Date of Delivery), included or will include an untrue statement of a material fact or omitted or will omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading. The representations and warranties in this subsection shall not apply to statements in or omissions from the Registration Statement or Prospectus made in reliance upon and in conformity with written information furnished to the Company by any Underwriter through Merrill Lynch expressly for use in the Registration Statement (or any amendment thereto) or the Prospectus (or any amendment or supplement thereto).

The Prospectus, each preliminary prospectus and the prospectus filed as part of the Registration Statement as originally filed or as part of any amendment thereto complied when so filed in all material respects with the 1933 Act, the 1933 Act Regulations and the 1940 Act except for any corrections to any preliminary prospectus that are made in the Prospectus (or any amendment or supplement thereto prior to the effective date of the Registration Statement) and each preliminary prospectus and the Prospectus delivered to the Underwriters for use in connection with this offering was identical to the electronically transmitted copies thereof filed with the Commission pursuant to EDGAR, except to the extent permitted by Regulation S-T.

(ii) *Independent Accountants* . The accountants who certified the financial statements included in the Registration Statement are independent public accountants as required by the 1933 Act, the 1933 Act Regulations and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "1934 Act").

(iii) *Financial Statements* . The financial statements included in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus, together with the related schedules and notes, present fairly in all material respects the financial position of the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries at the dates indicated and the consolidated statement of operations, consolidated statement of stockholders' equity and consolidated statement of cash flows of the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries for the periods specified; there are no financial statements that are required to be included in the Registration Statement or Prospectus that are not included as required; said financial statements have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States ("GAAP") applied on a consistent basis throughout the periods involved. The "Selected Financial and Other Data" included in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus present fairly, in all material respects, the information shown therein and have been compiled on a basis consistent with that of the audited financial statements included in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus. The financial data set forth in the Prospectus under the caption "Capitalization" fairly presents the information set forth therein on a basis consistent with that of the audited financial statements and related notes thereto contained in the Registration Statement.

(iv) *No Material Adverse Change in Business* . Since the respective dates as of which information is given in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus, except as otherwise stated therein, (A) there has been no material adverse change in the condition, financial or otherwise, or in the earnings, business affairs or business prospects of the Company and its subsidiary considered as one enterprise, whether or not arising in the ordinary course of business (a "Material Adverse Effect"), (B) there have been no transactions entered into by the Company or its subsidiary, other than those in the ordinary course of business, which are material with respect to the Company and its subsidiary considered as one enterprise, and (C) there has been no dividend or distribution of any kind declared, paid or made by the Company on any class of its capital stock.

(v) *Good Standing of the Company* . The Company has been duly organized and is validly existing as a corporation in good standing under the laws of the State of Maryland and has corporate power and authority to own, lease and operate its properties and to conduct its business as described in the Prospectus and to enter into and perform its obligations under this Agreement,

the Investment Advisory Agreement and the Administration Agreement; and the Company is duly qualified as a foreign corporation to transact business and is in good standing in each other jurisdiction in which such qualification is required, whether by reason of the ownership or leasing of property or the conduct of business, except where the failure so to qualify or to be in good standing would not reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect.

(vi) *Subsidiaries* . The Company's only subsidiary is Ares Capital CP Funding LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (the "Subsidiary"). The Subsidiary has been duly organized and is validly existing as a limited liability company in good standing under the laws of the jurisdiction of its organization, has power and authority to own, lease and operate its properties and to conduct its business as described in the Prospectus and is duly qualified as a foreign limited liability company to transact business and is in good standing in each jurisdiction in which such qualification is required, whether by reason of the ownership or leasing of property or the conduct of business, except where the failure to be so qualified or to be in good standing would not reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect; except as otherwise disclosed in the Registration Statement, all of the issued and outstanding capital stock of such Subsidiary has been duly authorized and validly issued, is fully paid and non-assessable and is owned by the Company free and clear of any security interest, mortgage, pledge, lien encumbrance, claim or equity; none of the outstanding shares of capital stock of the Subsidiary was issued in violation of the preemptive or other similar rights of any securityholder of such Subsidiary. Except as set forth in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus, the Company does not own, directly or indirectly, any shares of stock or any other equity or debt securities of any corporation or have any equity or debt interest in any firm, partnership, joint venture, association or other entity.

(vii) *Capitalization* . The authorized, issued and outstanding capital stock of the Company is as set forth in the Prospectus in the column entitled "Actual" under the caption "Capitalization" (except for subsequent issuances, if any, pursuant to this Agreement or pursuant to reservations, agreements or employee benefit plans, if any, referred to in the Prospectus or pursuant to the exercise of convertible securities or options, if any, referred to in the Prospectus). The shares of issued and outstanding capital stock of the Company have been duly authorized and validly issued and are fully paid and non-assessable; none of the outstanding shares of capital stock of the Company was issued in violation of preemptive or other similar rights of any securityholder of the Company.

(viii) *Authorization of Agreements* . This Agreement, the Investment Advisory Agreement and the Administration Agreement have each been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company. The Investment Advisory Agreement and the Administration Agreement are valid and binding obligations of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with their terms, except as the enforcement thereof may be subject to (i) bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium or other similar laws now or thereafter in effect relating to creditors' rights generally and (ii) general principles of equity and the discretion of the court before which any proceeding therefor may be brought.

(ix) *Authorization and Description of Securities* . The Securities have been duly authorized for issuance and sale to the Underwriters pursuant to this Agreement and, when issued and delivered by the Company pursuant to this Agreement against payment of the consideration set forth herein, will be validly issued and fully paid and non-assessable; the Common Stock conforms in all material respects to all statements relating thereto contained in the Prospectus and such description conforms in all material respects to the rights set forth in the instruments defining the same; and the issuance of the Securities is not subject to the preemptive or other similar rights of any securityholder of the Company.

(x) *Absence of Defaults and Conflicts* . Neither the Company nor the Subsidiary is in violation of its charter, by-laws or other organizational documents or in default in the performance or observance of any obligation, agreement, covenant or condition contained in any contract, indenture, mortgage, deed of trust, loan or credit agreement, note, lease or other agreement or instrument to which the Company or the Subsidiary is a party or by which any of them may be bound, or to which any of the property or assets of the Company or the Subsidiary is subject (collectively, "Agreements and Instruments") except for such defaults that would not reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect; and the execution, delivery and performance of this Agreement, the Investment Advisory Agreement and the Administration Agreement and the consummation of the transactions contemplated herein and therein and in the Registration Statement (including the issuance and sale of the Securities and the use of the proceeds from the sale of the Securities as described in the Prospectus under the caption "Use of Proceeds") and compliance by the Company with its obligations hereunder and thereunder do not and will not, whether with or without the giving of notice or passage of time or both, (A) conflict with or constitute a breach of, or default or Repayment Event (as defined below) under, or result in the creation or imposition of any lien, charge or encumbrance upon any property or assets of the Company or the Subsidiary pursuant to, the Agreements and Instruments, except for such conflicts, breaches, defaults or Repayment Events that would not reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect, or (B) conflict with or constitute a breach of, or default under, any contract, indenture, mortgage, deed of trust, loan or credit agreement, note, lease or other agreement or instrument to which Ares is a party or by which Ares may be bound, or to which any of the property or assets of Ares Management LLC ("Ares") is subject, or the limited partner agreement or other governing documents of any fund managed by, advised by or affiliated with Ares, except for such conflicts, breaches or defaults that would not reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect, nor will such action result in any violation of the provisions of the charter, by-laws or other organizational documents of the Company or the Subsidiary or any applicable law, statute, rule, regulation, judgment, order, writ or decree of any government, government instrumentality or court, domestic or foreign, having jurisdiction over the Company or the Subsidiary or any of their assets, properties or operations. As used herein, a "Repayment Event" means any event or condition which gives the holder of any note, debenture or other evidence of indebtedness (or any person acting on such holder's behalf) the right to require the repurchase, redemption or repayment of all or a portion of such indebtedness by the Company or the Subsidiary.

(xi) *Absence of Proceedings* . Other than as disclosed in the Registration Statement, there is no action, suit or proceeding or, to the knowledge of the Company, inquiry or investigation, before or brought by any court or governmental agency or body, domestic or foreign, now pending, or, to the knowledge of the Company, threatened, against or affecting the Company or the Subsidiary, which is required to be disclosed in the Registration Statement, or which would reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect, or which would reasonably be expected to materially and adversely affect the properties or assets thereof or the consummation of the transactions contemplated in this Agreement, the Investment Advisory Agreement or the Administration Agreement or the performance by the Company of its obligations hereunder or thereunder; the aggregate of all pending legal or governmental proceedings to which the Company or the Subsidiary is a party or of which any of their respective property or assets is the subject which are not described in the Registration Statement, including ordinary routine litigation incidental to the business, would not reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect.

(xii) *Accuracy of Exhibits* . There are no contracts or documents which are required to be described in the Registration Statement or the Prospectus or to be filed as exhibits thereto which have not been so described and filed as required.

(xiii) *Possession of Intellectual Property* . The Company and the Subsidiary own or possess, or can acquire on reasonable terms, adequate patents, patent rights, licenses, inventions, copyrights, know-how (including trade secrets and other unpatented and/or unpatentable proprietary or confidential information, systems or procedures), trademarks, service marks, trade names or other intellectual property (collectively, "Intellectual Property") necessary to carry on the business now operated by them or proposed to be operated by them immediately following the offering of the Securities as described in the Prospectus, except where the failure to own or possess or otherwise be able to acquire such rights in a timely manner would not otherwise reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect, and neither the Company nor the Subsidiary has received any notice of or is otherwise aware of any infringement of or conflict with asserted rights of others with respect to any Intellectual Property or of any facts or circumstances which would render any Intellectual Property invalid or inadequate to protect the interest of the Company or the Subsidiary therein, and which infringement or conflict (if the subject of any unfavorable decision, ruling or finding) or invalidity or inadequacy, singly or in the aggregate, would reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect.

(xiv) *Absence of Further Requirements* . No filing with, or authorization, approval, consent, license, order, registration, qualification or decree of, any court or governmental authority or agency is necessary or required for the performance by the Company of its obligations hereunder, in connection with the offering, issuance or sale of the Securities hereunder or the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, the Investment Advisory Agreement, the Administration Agreement or the Prospectus (including the use of the proceeds from the sale of the Securities as described in the Prospectus under the caption "Use of Proceeds"), except (A) such as have been already obtained under the 1933 Act, the 1933 Act Regulations or the 1940 Act, (B) such as may be required under state securities laws, and (C) the filing of the Notification of Election under the 1940 Act, which has been effected.

(xv) *Absence of Manipulation* . Neither the Company nor any affiliate of the Company has taken, nor will the Company or any affiliate take, directly or indirectly, any action which is designed to or which has constituted or which would be expected to cause or result in stabilization or manipulation of the price of any security of the Company to facilitate the sale or resale of the Securities in violation of any law, statute, regulation or rule applicable to the Company or its affiliates.

(xvi) *Possession of Licenses and Permits* . The Company and the Subsidiary possess such permits, licenses, approvals, consents and other authorizations (collectively, "Governmental Licenses") issued by the appropriate federal, state, local or foreign regulatory agencies or bodies necessary to conduct the business now operated by them or proposed to be operated by them immediately following the offering of the Securities as described in the Prospectus, except where the failure so to possess would not reasonably be expected to, singly or in the aggregate, result in a Material Adverse Effect; the Company and the Subsidiary are in compliance with the terms and conditions of all such Governmental Licenses, except where the failure so to comply would not reasonably be expected to, singly or in the aggregate, result in a Material Adverse Effect; all of the Governmental Licenses are valid and in full force and effect, except when the invalidity of such Governmental Licenses or the failure of such Governmental Licenses to be in full force and effect would not reasonably be expected to, singly or in the aggregate, result in a Material Adverse Effect; and neither the Company nor the Subsidiary has received any notice of proceedings relating to the revocation or modification of any such Governmental Licenses which, singly or in the aggregate, if the subject of an unfavorable decision, ruling or finding, would reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect.

(xvii) *Investment Company Act* . The Company is not required, and upon the issuance and sale of the Securities as herein contemplated and the application of the net proceeds therefrom as

described in the Prospectus will not be required, to register as a "registered management investment company" under the 1940 Act.

(xviii) *Registration Rights* . There are no persons with registration rights or other similar rights to have any securities registered pursuant to the Registration Statement or otherwise registered by the Company under the 1933 Act.

(xix) *Related Party Transactions* . There are no business relationships or related party transactions involving the Company, the Subsidiary or any other person required to be described in the Prospectus which have not been described as required.

(xx) *Notification of Election* . When the Notification of Election was filed with the Commission, it (A) contained all statements required to be stated therein in accordance with, and complied in all material respects with the requirements of, the 1940 Act and (B) did not include any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

(xxi) *Investment Advisory Agreement* . (A) The terms of the Investment Advisory Agreement, including compensation terms, comply in all material respects with all applicable provisions of the 1940 Act and the Advisers Act and (B) the approvals by the board of directors and the sole stockholder of the Company of the Investment Advisory Agreement have been made in accordance with the requirements of Section 15 of the 1940 Act applicable to companies that have elected to be regulated as business development companies under the 1940 Act.

(xxii) *Interested Persons* . Except as disclosed in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus (A) no person is serving or acting as an officer, director or investment adviser of the Company, except in accordance with the provisions of the 1940 Act and the Advisers Act, and (B) to the knowledge of the Company, no director of the Company is an "interested person" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Company or an "affiliated person" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of any of the Underwriters.

(xxiii) *Business Development Company* . (A) The Company has duly elected to be treated by the Commission under the 1940 Act as a business development company, such election is effective and all required action has been taken by the Company under the 1933 Act and the 1940 Act to make the public offering and consummate the sale of the Securities as provided in this Agreement; (B) the provisions of the corporate charter and by-laws of the Company, and the investment objectives, policies and restrictions described in the Prospectus, assuming they are implemented as described, will comply in all material respects with the requirements of the 1940 Act; and (C) the operations of the Company are in compliance in all material respects with the provisions of the 1940 Act applicable to business development companies.

(xxiv) *Employees and Executives* . The Company is not aware that (A) any executive, key employee or significant group of employees of the Company, the Subsidiary, the Adviser or the Administrator plans to terminate employment with the Company, the Subsidiary, the Adviser or the Administrator or (B) any such executive or key employee is subject to any noncompete, nondisclosure, confidentiality, employment, consulting or similar arrangement that would be violated by the present or proposed business activities of the Company, the Subsidiary, the Adviser or the Administrator.

(xxv) *No Extension of Credit* . The Company has not, directly or indirectly, extended credit, arranged to extend credit, or renewed any extension of credit, in the form of a personal loan, to or for any director or executive officer of the Company or the Subsidiary, or to or for any family member or affiliate of any director or executive officer of the Company or the Subsidiary.

(xxvi) *Accounting Controls* . The Company has established and maintains a system of internal accounting controls sufficient to provide reasonable assurances that (A) transactions are executed in accordance with management's authorization; (B) transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP and to maintain accountability for assets; (C) access to assets is permitted only in accordance with management's authorization; and (D) the recorded accountability for inventory assets is compared with the existing inventory assets at reasonable intervals and appropriate action is taken with respect to any differences.

(xxvii) *Disclosure Controls* . The Company has established and employs disclosure controls and procedures that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the Company in the reports that it files or submits under the 1934 Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported, within the time periods specified in the Commission's rules and forms, and is accumulated and communicated to the Company's management, including its principal executive officer or officers and principal financial officer or officers, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding disclosure.

(xxviii) *Tax Returns* . The Company and the Subsidiary have filed all federal, state, local and foreign tax returns that are required to have been filed by them pursuant to applicable foreign, federal, state, local or other law or have duly requested extensions thereof, except insofar as the failure to file such returns or request such extensions would not reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect, and have paid all taxes shown as due pursuant to such returns or pursuant to any assessment received by the Company and the Subsidiary, except for such taxes or assessments, if any, as are being contested in good faith and as to which adequate reserves have been provided or where the failure to pay would not reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect.

(b) *Representations and Warranties of the Adviser and the Administrator* . The Adviser and the Administrator, jointly and severally, represent to each Underwriter as of the date hereof, as of the Closing Time referred in Section 2(c) hereof, and as of each Date of Delivery (if any) referred to in Section 2(b) hereof, and agrees with each Underwriter as follows:

(i) *No Material Adverse Change in Business* . Since the respective dates as of which information is given in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus, except as otherwise stated therein, there has been no material adverse change in the condition, financial or otherwise, or in the earnings, business affairs, business prospects or regulatory status of the Adviser or the Administrator, whether or not arising in the ordinary course of business, that would reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect.

(ii) *Good Standing* . Each of the Adviser and the Administrator has been duly organized and is validly existing as a limited liability company in good standing under the laws of the State of Delaware, and has limited liability company power and authority to own, lease and operate its properties and to conduct its business as described in the Prospectus and to enter into and perform its obligations under this Agreement; the Adviser has limited liability company power and authority to execute and deliver and perform its obligations under the Investment Advisory Agreement; the Administrator has limited liability company power and authority to enter into and perform its obligations under the Administration Agreement; and each of the Adviser and the Administrator is duly qualified to transact business as a foreign entity and is in good standing in each other jurisdiction in which such qualification is required, whether by reason of ownership or leasing of its property or the conduct of business, except where the failure to qualify or be in good standing would not otherwise reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect.

(iii) *Registration Under Advisers Act* . The Adviser is duly registered with the Commission as an investment adviser under the Advisers Act and is not prohibited by the Advisers Act or the

1940 Act from acting under the Investment Advisory Agreement for the Company as contemplated by the Prospectus. There does not exist any proceeding or, to the Adviser's knowledge, any facts or circumstances the existence of which could lead to any proceeding which might adversely affect the registration of the Adviser with the Commission.

(iv) *Absence of Proceedings* . There is no action, suit or proceeding or, to the knowledge of the Adviser or the Administrator, inquiry or investigation before or brought by any court or governmental agency or body, domestic or foreign, now pending, or, to the knowledge of the Adviser or the Administrator, threatened, against or affecting either the Adviser or the Administrator, which is required to be disclosed in the Registration Statement (other than as disclosed therein), or which would reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect, or which would reasonably be expected to materially and adversely affect the consummation of the transactions contemplated in this Agreement, the Investment Advisory Agreement or the Administration Agreement; the aggregate of all pending legal or governmental proceedings to which the Adviser or the Administrator is a party or of which any of their respective property or assets is the subject which are not described in the Registration Statement, including ordinary routine litigation incidental to their business, would not reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect.

(v) *Absence of Defaults and Conflicts* . Neither the Adviser nor the Administrator is in violation of its limited liability company operating agreement or in default in the performance or observance of any obligation, agreement, covenant or condition contained in any contract, indenture, mortgage, deed of trust, loan or credit agreement, note, lease or other agreement or instrument to which the Adviser or the Administrator is a party or by which it or any of them may be bound, or to which any of the property or assets of the Adviser or the Administrator is subject (collectively, the "Adviser/Administrator Agreements and Instruments"), or in violation of any law, statute, rule, regulation, judgment, order or decree except for such violations or defaults that would not reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect; and the execution, delivery and performance of this Agreement, the Investment Advisory Agreement and the Administration Agreement and the consummation of the transactions contemplated herein and therein and in the Registration Statement (including the issuance and sale of the Securities and the use of the proceeds from the sale of the Securities as described in the Prospectus under the caption "Use of Proceeds") and compliance by the Adviser and the Administrator with their respective obligations hereunder and under the Investment Advisory Agreement and the Administration Agreement do not and will not, whether with or without the giving of notice or passage of time or both, conflict with or constitute a breach of, or default under, or result in the creation or imposition of any lien, charge or encumbrance upon any property or assets of the Adviser or the Administrator pursuant to, the Adviser/Administrator Agreements and Instruments except for such violations or defaults that would not reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect, nor will such action result in any violation of the provisions of the limited liability company operating agreement of the Adviser or Administrator, respectively, or any applicable law, statute, rule, regulation, judgment, order, writ or decree of any government, government instrumentality or court, domestic or foreign, having jurisdiction over the Adviser or the Administrator or any of their assets, properties or operations.

(vi) *Authorization of Agreements* . This Agreement, the Investment Advisory Agreement and the Administration Agreement have been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Adviser and the Administrator, as applicable. This Agreement, the Investment Advisory Agreement and the Administration Agreement are valid and binding obligations of the Adviser or the Administrator, as applicable, enforceable against them in accordance with their terms, except as the enforcement thereof may be subject to (i) bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium or other similar

laws now or thereafter in effect relating to creditors' rights generally and (ii) general principles of equity and the discretion of the court before which any proceeding therefor may be brought.

(vii) *Absence of Further Requirements* . No filing with, or authorization, approval, consent, license, order, registration, qualification or decree of, any court or governmental authority or agency is necessary or required for the performance by the Adviser or the Administrator of their obligations hereunder, in connection with the offering, issuance or sale of the Securities hereunder or the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, the Investment Advisory Agreement, the Administration Agreement or the Prospectus (including the use of the proceeds from the sale of the Securities as described in the Prospectus under the caption "Use of Proceeds"), except (A) such as have been already obtained under the 1933 Act, the 1933 Act Regulations or the 1940 Act, (B) such as may be required under state securities laws, (C) the filing of the Notification of Election under the 1940 Act, which has been effected and (D) such as have been obtained under the laws and regulations of jurisdictions outside the United States in which the Reserved Securities are offered.

(viii) *Description of Adviser and Administrator* . The description of the Adviser and the Administrator contained in the Prospectus does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances in which they were made, not misleading.

(ix) *Possession of Licenses and Permits* . The Adviser and the Administrator possess such Governmental Licenses issued by the appropriate federal, state, local or foreign regulatory agencies or bodies necessary to conduct the business now operated by them, except where the failure so to possess would not reasonably be expected to, singly or in the aggregate, result in a Material Adverse Effect; the Adviser and the Administrator are in compliance with the terms and conditions of all such Governmental Licenses, except where the failure so to comply would not, singly or in the aggregate, result in a Material Adverse Effect; all of the Governmental Licenses are valid and in full force and effect, except when the invalidity of such Governmental Licenses or the failure of such Governmental Licenses to be in full force and effect would not, singly or in the aggregate, result in a Material Adverse Effect; and neither the Adviser nor the Administrator has received any notice of proceedings relating to the revocation or modification of any such Governmental Licenses which, singly or in the aggregate, if the subject of an unfavorable decision, ruling or finding, would reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect.

(x) *Stabilization and Manipulation* . Neither the Adviser, the Administrator nor any of their respective partners, officers, affiliates or controlling persons has taken, directly or indirectly, any action designed, under the 1934 Act, to result in the stabilization or manipulation of the price of any security of the Company to facilitate the sale of the Securities in violation of any law, statute, regulation or rule applicable to the Adviser, the Administrator or any of their respective partners, officers, affiliates or controlling persons.

(xi) *Employment Status* . The Adviser is not aware that (A) any executive, key employee or significant group of employees of the Company, if any, the Subsidiary, the Adviser or the Administrator, as applicable, plans to terminate employment with the Company, the Subsidiary, the Adviser or the Administrator or (B) any such executive or key employee is subject to any non-compete, nondisclosure, confidentiality, employment, consulting or similar agreement that would be violated by the present or proposed business activities of the Company, the Subsidiary or the Adviser except where such termination or violation would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect.

(xii) *Internal Controls* . The Adviser is using its commercially reasonable efforts to implement a system of internal controls sufficient to provide reasonable assurance that (A) transactions effectuated by it under the Investment Advisory Agreement are executed in

accordance with its management's general or specific authorization; and (B) access to the Company's assets that are in its possession or control is permitted only in accordance with its management's general or specific authorization.

(xiii) *Accounting Controls* . The Administrator is using its commercially reasonable efforts to operate a system of internal accounting controls sufficient to provide reasonable assurance that (A) transactions for which it has bookkeeping and record keeping responsibility for under the Administration Agreement are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of the Company's financial statements in conformity with GAAP and to maintain financial statements in conformity with GAAP and to maintain accountability for the Company's assets and (B) the recorded accountability for such assets is compared with existing assets at reasonable intervals and appropriate action is taken with respect to any differences.

(c) *Officer's Certificates.* Any certificate signed by any officer of the Company, the Subsidiary, the Adviser or the Administrator delivered to the Representatives or to counsel for the Underwriters shall be deemed a representation and warranty by the Company, the Subsidiary, the Adviser and or the Adminstrator, as applicable, to each Underwriter as to the matters covered thereby.

SECTION 2. *Sale and Delivery to Underwriters; Closing* .

(a) *Initial Securities.* On the basis of the representations and warranties herein contained and subject to the terms and conditions herein set forth, the Company agrees to sell to each Underwriter, severally and not jointly, and each Underwriter, severally and not jointly, agrees to purchase from the Company, at the price per share set forth in Schedule B, the number of Initial Securities set forth in Schedule A opposite the name of such Underwriter, plus any additional number of Initial Securities which such Underwriter may become obligated to purchase pursuant to the provisions of Section 10 hereof.

(b) *Option Securities.* In addition, on the basis of the representations and warranties herein contained and subject to the terms and conditions herein set forth, the Company hereby grants an option to the Underwriters, severally and not jointly, to purchase up to an additional

- shares of Common Stock at the price per share set forth in Schedule B, less an amount per share equal to any dividends or distributions declared by the Company and payable on the Initial Securities but not payable on the Option Securities. The option hereby granted will expire 30 days after the date hereof and may be exercised in whole or in part from time to time on one or more occasions only for the purpose of covering overallotments which may be made in connection with the offering and distribution of the Initial Securities upon notice by Merrill Lynch to the Company setting forth the number of Option Securities as to which the several Underwriters are then exercising the option and the time and date of payment and delivery for such Option Securities. Any such time and date of delivery (a "Date of Delivery") shall be determined by Merrill Lynch, but shall not be later than seven full business days after the exercise of said option, nor in any event prior to the Closing Time, as hereinafter defined. If the option is exercised as to all or any portion of the Option Securities, each of the Underwriters, acting severally and not jointly, will purchase that proportion of the total number of Option Securities then being purchased which the number of Initial Securities set forth in Schedule A opposite the name of such Underwriter bears to the total number of Initial Securities, subject in each case to such adjustments as Merrill Lynch in its discretion shall make to eliminate any sales or purchases of fractional shares.

(c) *Payment.* Payment of the purchase price for, against delivery of certificates for, the Initial Securities shall be made at the offices of Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP, One New York Plaza, New York, NY 10004 or at such other place as shall be agreed upon by the Representatives and the Company, at 9:00 A.M. (Eastern time) on the third (fourth, if the pricing occurs after 4:30 P.M. (Eastern time) on any given day) business day after the date hereof (unless postponed in accordance with the provisions of Section 10), or such other time not later than ten business days after such date

as shall be agreed upon by the Representatives and the Company (such time and date of payment and delivery being herein called "Closing Time").

In addition, in the event that any or all of the Option Securities are purchased by the Underwriters, payment of the purchase price for, and delivery of certificates for, such Option Securities shall be made at the above-mentioned offices, or at such other place as shall be agreed upon by the Representatives and the Company, on each Date of Delivery as specified in the notice from the Representatives to the Company.

Payment shall be made to the Company by wire transfer of immediately available funds to a bank account designated by the Company, against delivery to the Representatives through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company ("DTC") for the respective accounts of the Underwriters of certificates for the Securities to be purchased by them. It is understood that each Underwriter has authorized the Representatives, for its account, to accept delivery of, receipt for, and make payment of the purchase price for, the Initial Securities and the Option Securities, if any, which it has agreed to purchase. Merrill Lynch, individually and not as representative of the Underwriters, may (but shall not be obligated to) make payment of the purchase price for the Initial Securities or the Option Securities, if any, to be purchased by any Underwriter whose funds have not been received by the Closing Time or the relevant Date of Delivery, as the case may be, but such payment shall not relieve such Underwriter from its obligations hereunder.

(d) *Denominations; Registration.* The certificates for the Initial Securities and the Option Securities, if any, shall be transferred electronically at the Closing Time or the relevant Date of Delivery, as the case may be, in such denominations and registered in such names as the Representatives may request; provided that any such request must be received in writing at least one full business day before the Closing Time or the relevant Date of Delivery, as the case may be.

SECTION 3. *Covenants of the Company* . The Company covenants with each Underwriter as follows:

(a) *Compliance with Securities Regulations and Commission Requests.* The Company, subject to Section 3(b), will comply with the requirements of Rule 430A and Rule 497 and will notify the Representatives immediately, and confirm the notice in writing, (i) when any post-effective amendment to the Registration Statement shall become effective, or any supplement to the Prospectus or any amended Prospectus shall have been filed, (ii) of the receipt of any comments from the Commission relating to the Registration Statement, (iii) of any request by the Commission for any amendment to the Registration Statement or any amendment or supplement to the Prospectus or for additional information, and (iv) of the issuance by the Commission of any stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement or of any order preventing or suspending the use of any preliminary prospectus, or of the suspension of the qualification of the Securities for offering or sale in any jurisdiction, or of the initiation or threatening of any proceedings for any of such purposes. The Company will promptly effect the filings necessary pursuant to Rule 497(h) and will take such steps as it deems necessary to ascertain promptly whether the form of prospectus transmitted for filing under Rule 497(h) was received for filing by the Commission and, in the event that it was not, it will promptly file such prospectus. The Company will use its reasonable efforts to prevent the issuance of any stop order and, if any stop order is issued, to obtain the lifting thereof at the earliest possible moment.

(b) *Filing of Amendments.* The Company will give the Representatives notice of its intention to file or prepare any amendment to the Registration Statement (including any filing under Rule 462(b)) or any amendment, supplement or revision to either the prospectus included in the Registration Statement at the time it became effective or to the Prospectus, will furnish the Representatives with copies of any such documents a reasonable amount of time prior to such proposed filing or use, as the case may be, and will not file or use any such document to which the Representatives or counsel for the Underwriters shall object.

(c) *Delivery of Commission Filings.* The Company has furnished or will deliver to the Representatives and counsel for the Underwriters, without charge, conformed copies of the Registration Statement as originally filed, and of each amendment thereto (including exhibits filed therewith or incorporated by reference therein) and conformed copies of all consents and certificates of experts, and, upon the Representative's request, will also deliver to the Representatives, without charge, a conformed copy of the Registration Statement as originally filed and of each amendment thereto (without exhibits) for each of the Underwriters. The copies of the Registration Statement and each amendment thereto furnished to the Underwriters will be identical to the electronically transmitted copies thereof filed with the Commission pursuant to EDGAR, except to the extent permitted by Regulation S-T, or as filed with the Commission in paper form as permitted by Regulation S-T.

(d) *Delivery of Prospectuses.* The Company has delivered to each Underwriter, without charge, as many copies of each preliminary prospectus as such Underwriter reasonably requested, and the Company hereby consents to the use of such copies for purposes permitted by the 1933 Act. The Company will furnish to each Underwriter, without charge, during the period when the Prospectus is required to be delivered under the 1933 Act, such number of copies of the Prospectus (as amended or supplemented) as such Underwriter may reasonably request. The Prospectus and any amendments or supplements thereto furnished to the Underwriters will be identical to the electronically transmitted copies thereof filed with the Commission pursuant to EDGAR, except to the extent permitted by Regulation S-T.

(e) *Continued Compliance with Securities Laws.* The Company will use its commercially reasonable efforts to comply with the 1933 Act and the 1933 Act Regulations so as to permit the completion of the distribution of the Securities as contemplated in this Agreement and in the Prospectus. If at any time when a prospectus is required by the 1933 Act to be delivered in connection with sales of the Securities, any event shall occur or condition shall exist as a result of which it is necessary, in the opinion of counsel for the Underwriters or for the Company, to amend the Registration Statement or amend or supplement the Prospectus in order that the Prospectus will not include any untrue statements of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein not misleading in the light of the circumstances existing at the time it is delivered to a purchaser, or if it shall be necessary, in the opinion of such counsel, at any such time to amend the Registration Statement or amend or supplement the Prospectus in order to comply with the requirements of the 1933 Act or the 1933 Act Regulations, the Company will promptly prepare and file with the Commission, subject to Section 3(b), such amendment or supplement as may be necessary to correct such statement or omission or to make the Registration Statement or the Prospectus comply with such requirements, and the Company will furnish to the Underwriters such number of copies of such amendment or supplement as the Underwriters may reasonably request.

(f) *Blue Sky Qualifications.* The Company will use its commercially reasonable efforts, in cooperation with the Underwriters, to qualify the Securities for offering and sale under the applicable securities laws of such states and other jurisdictions (domestic or foreign) as the Representatives may designate and to maintain such qualifications in effect for as long as the Representatives reasonably request; provided, however, that the Company shall not be obligated to file any general consent to service of process or to qualify as a foreign corporation or as a dealer in securities in any jurisdiction in which it is not so qualified or to subject itself to taxation in respect of doing business in any jurisdiction in which it is not otherwise so subject.

(g) *Rule 158.* The Company will timely file such reports pursuant to the 1934 Act as are necessary in order to make generally available to its securityholders as soon as reasonably practicable an earnings statement for the purposes of, and to provide the benefits contemplated by, the last paragraph of Section 11(a) of the 1933 Act.

(h) *Use of Proceeds.* The Company will use the net proceeds received by it from the sale of the Securities in the manner specified in the Prospectus under "Use of Proceeds".

(i) *Listing.* The Company will use its commercially reasonable efforts to effect and maintain the quotation of the Securities on the Nasdaq National Market.

(j) *Restriction on Sale of Securities.* During a period of 90 days from the date of the Prospectus, the Company will not, without the prior written consent of Merrill Lynch, (i) directly or indirectly, offer, pledge, sell, contract to sell, sell any option or contract to purchase, purchase any option or contract to sell, grant any option, right or warrant to purchase or otherwise transfer or dispose of any share of Common Stock or any securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for Common Stock or file any registration statement under the 1933 Act with respect to any of the foregoing or (ii) enter into any swap or any other agreement or any transaction that transfers, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, the economic consequence of ownership of the Common Stock, whether any such swap or transaction described in clause (i) or (ii) above is to be settled by delivery of Common Stock or such other securities, in cash or otherwise. The foregoing sentence shall not apply to (A) the registration and sale of Securities to be sold hereunder, (B) the issuance of any shares of Common Stock issued by the Company upon the exercise of an option or warrant or the conversion of a security outstanding on the date hereof and referred to in the Prospectus, and any registration related thereto, (C) any shares of Common Stock issued or options to purchase Common Stock granted pursuant to existing employee benefit plans of the Company referred to in the Prospectus, and any registration related thereto, (D) any shares of Common Stock issued pursuant to any non-employee director stock plan or dividend reinvestment plan, and any registration related thereto, or (E) any shares of Common Stock issued to directors in lieu of directors' fees, and any registration related thereto. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if: (1) during the last 17 days of such 90-day period the Company issues an earnings release or material news or a material event relating to the Company occurs; or (2) prior to the expiration of the such 90-day period, the Company announces that it will release earnings results during the 16-day-period beginning on the last day of such 90-day period, the restrictions imposed by this letter shall continue to apply until the expiration of the 18-day period beginning on the issuance of the earnings release or the occurrence of the material news or material event.

(k) *Reporting Requirements.* The Company, during the period when the Prospectus is required to be delivered under the 1933 Act, will file all documents required to be filed with the Commission pursuant to the 1934 Act within the time periods required by the 1934 Act and the rules and regulations of the Commission thereunder.

(l) *Business Development Company Status* . The Company, during a period of at least 12 months from the Closing Time, will use its commercially reasonable efforts to maintain its status as a business development company; *provided* , *however*, the Company may cease to be, or withdraw its election as, a business development company, with the approval of the board of directors and a vote of stockholders as required by Section 58 of the 1940 Act or an successor provision.

(m) *Regulated Investment Company Status* . During the 12-month period following the Closing Time, the Company will use its commercially reasonable efforts to qualify and elect to be treated as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") and to maintain such qualification and election in effect for each full fiscal year during which it is a business development company under the 1940 Act.

(n) *Accounting Controls.* The Company will use its commercially reasonable efforts to establish and maintain a system of internal accounting controls sufficient to provide reasonable assurances that (A) material information relating to the Company and the assets managed by the Adviser is promptly made known to the officers responsible for establishing and maintaining the system of internal accounting controls; and (B) any significant deficiencies or weaknesses in the design or operation of internal accounting controls which could adversely affect the Company's ability to record, process,

summarize and report financial data, and any fraud whether or not material that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in internal controls, are adequately and promptly disclosed to the Company's independent auditors and the audit committee of the Company's board of directors.

SECTION 4. *Payment of Expenses* .

(a) *Expenses.* The Company will pay all expenses incident to the performance of its obligations under this Agreement, including (i) the preparation, printing and filing of the Registration Statement (including financial statements and exhibits) as originally filed and of each amendment thereto, (ii) the printing and delivery to the Underwriters of this Agreement, any Agreement among Underwriters and such other documents as may be required in connection with the offering, purchase, sale, issuance or delivery of the Securities, (iii) the preparation, issuance and delivery of the certificates for the Securities to the Underwriters, including any stock or other transfer taxes and any stamp or other duties payable upon the sale, issuance or delivery of the Securities to the Underwriters, (iv) the fees and disbursements of the Company's, the Adviser's and the Administrator's counsel, accountants and other advisors, (v) the qualification of the Securities under securities laws in accordance with the provisions of Section 3(f) hereof, including filing fees and the reasonable fees and disbursements of counsel for the Underwriters in connection therewith and in connection with the preparation of the Blue Sky Survey and any supplement thereto, (vi) the printing and delivery to the Underwriters of copies of each preliminary prospectus and of the Prospectus and any amendments or supplements thereto, (vii) the preparation, printing and delivery to the Underwriters of copies of the Blue Sky Survey and any supplement thereto, (viii) the fees and expenses of any transfer agent or registrar for the Securities, (ix) the costs and expenses of the Company relating to investor presentations on any "road show" undertaken in connection with the marketing of the Securities, including without limitation, expenses associated with the production of road show slides and graphics, fees and expenses of any consultants engaged in connection with the road show presentations, travel and lodging expenses of the representatives and officers of the Company and any such consultants, and 50% of the cost of aircraft and other transportation chartered in connection with the road show, (x) the filing fees incident to, and the reasonable fees and disbursements of counsel to the Underwriters in connection with, the review by the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD") of the terms of the sale of the Securities, and (xi) the fees and expenses incurred in connection with the inclusion of the Securities in the Nasdaq National Market.

(b) *Termination of Agreement.* If this Agreement is terminated by the Representatives in accordance with the provisions of Section 5 or Section 9(a)(i) hereof, the Company, the Adviser and the Administrator, jointly and severally, shall reimburse the Underwriters for all of their out-of-pocket expenses incurred, including the reasonable fees and disbursements of counsel for the Underwriters.

SECTION 5. *Conditions of Underwriters' Obligations* . The obligations of the several Underwriters hereunder are subject to the accuracy of the representations and warranties of the Company, the Adviser and the Administrator contained in Section 1 hereof or in certificates of any officer of the Company, the Adviser or the Administrator, to the performance by the Company, the Adviser and the Administrator of their respective covenants and other obligations hereunder, and to the following further conditions:

(a) *Effectiveness of Registration Statement.* The Registration Statement, including any Rule 462(b) Registration Statement, has become effective and at Closing Time no stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement shall have been issued under the 1933 Act or proceedings therefor initiated or threatened by the Commission, and any request on the part of the Commission for additional information shall have been complied with to the reasonable satisfaction of counsel to the Underwriters. A prospectus containing the Rule 430A Information shall have been filed with the Commission in accordance with Rule 497(h) (or a post-effective amendment providing such information shall have been filed and declared effective in accordance with the requirements of Rule 430A).

(b) *Opinions of Counsel for Company.* At Closing Time, the Representatives shall have received the favorable opinion, dated as of Closing Time, of Proskauer Rose LLP, counsel for the Company, Venable LLP, special Maryland counsel for the Company, and Kevin A. Frankel, general counsel of Ares and chief compliance officer and secretary of the Company, in each case in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to counsel for the Underwriters, together with signed or reproduced copies of such letter for each of the other Underwriters to the effect set forth in Exhibits A through C hereto. Such counsel may state that, insofar as such opinion involves factual matters, they have relied upon certificates of officers of the Company and/or the Subsidiary and certificates of public officials.

(c) *Opinion of Counsel for Underwriters.* At Closing Time, the Representatives shall have received the favorable opinion, dated as of Closing Time, of Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP, counsel for the Underwriters, together with signed or reproduced copies of such letter for each of the other Underwriters with respect to the matters set forth in opinions (iii), (xiv) (solely as to the authorization by the Adviser of the Purchase Agreement), the third to last paragraph and the penultimate paragraph of Exhibit A hereto and opinions 1, 3 (solely as to the second clause thereof), 5 and 6 of Exhibit B hereto. In giving such opinion such counsel may rely, as to all matters governed by the laws of jurisdictions other than the law of the State of New York and the federal law of the United States upon the opinions of counsel reasonably satisfactory to the Representatives, including counsel of the Company. Such counsel may also state that, insofar as such opinion involves factual matters, they have relied, to the extent they deem proper, upon certificates of officers of the Company and/or the Subsidiary and certificates of public officials.

(d) *Officers' Certificates.* (i) At Closing Time, there shall not have been, since the date hereof or since the respective dates as of which information is given in the Prospectus, any material adverse change in the condition, financial or otherwise, or in the earnings, business affairs or business prospects of the Company and the Subsidiary considered as one enterprise, whether or not arising in the ordinary course of business, and the Representatives shall have received a certificate of the president of the Company and of the chief financial or chief accounting officer of the Company, dated as of Closing Time, to the effect that (i) there has been no such material adverse change, (ii) the representations and warranties in Section 1(a) hereof are true and correct with the same force and effect as though expressly made at and as of Closing Time, (iii) the Company has complied with all agreements and satisfied all conditions on its part to be performed or satisfied at or prior to Closing Time, and (iv) no stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement has been issued and no proceedings for that purpose have been instituted or are pending or, to their knowledge, contemplated by the Commission.

(ii) At Closing Time, there shall not have been, since the date hereof or since the respective dates as of which information is given in the Prospectus, any material adverse change in the condition, financial or otherwise, or in the earnings, business affairs, business prospects or regulatory status of the Adviser or the Administrator, whether or not arising in the ordinary course of business, that would reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect (collectively, with respect to each of the Adviser and the Administrator, an "Advisers Material Adverse Effect"), and the Representatives shall have received a certificate of the president and the chief financial or chief accounting officer of each of the Adviser and the Administrator, dated as of Closing Time, to the effect that (i) there has been no such Advisers Material Adverse Effect, (ii) the representations and warranties of the Adviser and Administrator in Sections 1(a) and 1(b) hereof are true and correct with the same force and effect as though expressly made at and as of Closing Time, (iii) the Adviser and the Administrator have complied with all agreements and satisfied all conditions on their part to be performed or satisfied at or prior to Closing Time, and (iv) no stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement has been issued and no proceedings for that purpose have been instituted or are pending or, to their knowledge, contemplated by the Commission.

(e) *Accountant's Comfort Letter.* At the time of the execution of this Agreement, the Representatives shall have received from KPMG LLP a letter, in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to the Representatives, together with signed or reproduced copies of such letter for each of the other Underwriters containing statements and information of the type ordinarily included in accountants' "comfort letters" to underwriters with respect to the financial statements and certain financial information contained in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus.

(f) *Bring-down Comfort Letter.* At Closing Time, the Representatives shall have received from KPMG LLP a letter, dated as of Closing Time, to the effect that they reaffirm the statements made in the letter furnished pursuant to subsection (e) of this Section, except that the specified date referred to shall be a date not more than three business days prior to Closing Time.

(g) *Approval of Listing.* At Closing Time, the Securities shall have been approved for inclusion in the Nasdaq National Market, subject only to official notice of issuance.

(h) *No Objection.* The NASD has confirmed that it has not raised any objection with respect to the fairness and reasonableness of the underwriting terms and arrangements.

(i) *Lock-up Agreements.* At the date of this Agreement, the Representatives shall have received an agreement substantially in the form of Exhibit D hereto signed by the persons listed on Schedule C hereto. Notwithstanding the foregoing or any provision of Section 3(j) of this Agreement or any lock-up agreement delivered in connection with this Section 5(i) to the contrary, Ares may pledge shares of Common Stock of the Company owned by Ares in one or more bona fide lending transactions.

(j) *Conditions to Purchase of Option Securities.* In the event that the Underwriters exercise their option provided in Section 2(b) hereof to purchase all or any portion of the Option Securities, the representations and warranties of the Company, the Adviser and the Administrator contained herein and the statements in any certificates furnished by the Company, the Adviser and the Administrator hereunder shall be true and correct as of each Date of Delivery and, at the relevant Date of Delivery, the Representatives shall have received:

(i) *Officers' Certificates.* (A) A certificate, dated such Date of Delivery, of the president of the Company and of the chief financial or chief accounting officer of the Company confirming that the certificate delivered at the Closing Time pursuant to Section 5 (d)(i) hereof remains true and correct as of such Date of Delivery.

(B) A certificate, dated such Date of Delivery, of the president and the chief financial or chief accounting officers of each of the Adviser and the Administrator confirming that the certificates delivered at the Closing Time pursuant to Section 5(d) (ii) hereof remains true and correct as of such Date of Delivery.

(ii) *Opinion of Counsel for Company.* The favorable opinion of Proskauer Rose LLP, counsel for the Company, Venable LLP, special Maryland counsel for the Company, and Kevin A. Frankel, general counsel of Ares and chief compliance officer and secretary of the Company, in each case in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to the Representatives, dated such Date of Delivery, relating to the Option Securities to be purchased on such Date of Delivery and otherwise to the same effect as the opinions required by Section 5(b) hereof.

(iii) *Opinion of Counsel for Underwriters.* The favorable opinion of Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson, LLP, counsel for the Underwriters, dated such Date of Delivery, relating to the Option Securities to be purchased on such Date of Delivery and otherwise to the same effect as the opinion required by Section 5(c) hereof.

(iv) *Bring-down Comfort Letter.* A letter from KPMG LLP, in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to the Representatives and dated such Date of Delivery, substantially in the

same form and substance as the letter furnished to the Representatives pursuant to Section 5(f) hereof, except that the "specified date" in the letter furnished pursuant to this paragraph shall be a date not more than five days prior to such Date of Delivery.

(k) *Additional Documents.* At Closing Time and at each Date of Delivery, counsel for the Underwriters shall have been furnished with such documents as they may reasonably require for the purpose of enabling them to pass upon the issuance and sale of the Securities as herein contemplated, or in order to evidence the accuracy of any of the representations or warranties, or the fulfillment of any of the conditions, herein contained; and all proceedings taken by the Company, the Adviser and the Administrator in connection with the issuance and sale of the Securities as herein contemplated shall be reasonably satisfactory in form and substance to the Representatives and counsel for the Underwriters.

(l) *Termination of Agreement.* If any condition specified in this Section shall not have been fulfilled when and as required to be fulfilled, this Agreement, or, in the case of any condition to the purchase of Option Securities, on a Date of Delivery which is after the Closing Time, the obligations of the several Underwriters to purchase the relevant Option Securities, may be terminated by the Representatives by notice to the Company at any time at or prior to Closing Time or such Date of Delivery, as the case may be, and such termination shall be without liability of any party to any other party except as provided in Section 4 and except that Sections 1, 6, 7 and 8 shall survive any such termination and remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. *Indemnification.*

(a)(1) *Indemnification of Underwriters by the Company and the Adviser.* The Company and the Adviser, jointly and severally, agree to indemnify and hold harmless each Underwriter, its affiliates, as such term is defined in Rule 501(b) under the 1933 Act (each, an "Affiliate"), its selling agents and each person, if any, who controls any Underwriter within the meaning of Section 15 of the 1933 Act or Section 20 of the 1934 Act as follows:

(i) against any and all loss, liability, claim, damage and expense whatsoever, as incurred, arising out of any untrue statement or alleged untrue statement of a material fact contained in the Registration Statement (or any amendment thereto), including the Rule 430A Information or the omission or alleged omission therefrom of a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading or arising out of any untrue statement or alleged untrue statement of a material fact included in any preliminary prospectus or the Prospectus (or any amendment or supplement thereto), or the omission or alleged omission therefrom of a material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading;

(ii) against any and all loss, liability, claim, damage and expense whatsoever, as incurred, to the extent of the aggregate amount paid in settlement of any litigation, or any investigation or proceeding by any governmental agency or body, commenced or threatened, or of any claim whatsoever based upon any such untrue statement or omission, or any such alleged untrue statement or omission; provided that (subject to Section 6(d) below) any such settlement is effected with the written consent of the Company;

(iii) against any and all expense whatsoever, as incurred (including the fees and disbursements of counsel chosen by Merrill Lynch), reasonably incurred in investigating, preparing or defending against any litigation, or any investigation or proceeding by any governmental agency or body, commenced or threatened, or any claim whatsoever based upon any such untrue statement or omission, or any such alleged untrue statement or omission, to the extent that any such expense is not paid under (i) or (ii) above;

provided , *however* , that (i) this indemnity agreement shall not apply to any loss, liability, claim, damage or expense to the extent arising out of any untrue statement or omission or alleged untrue statement or omission made in reliance upon and in conformity with written information furnished to the Company by any Underwriter through Merrill Lynch expressly for use in the Registration Statement (or any amendment thereto), including the Rule 430A Information or any preliminary prospectus or the Prospectus (or any amendment or supplement thereto) and (ii) this indemnity agreement shall not apply, with respect to any particular Underwriter, to any loss, liability, claim, damage or expense to the extent arising out of any untrue statement or omission or alleged untrue statement or omission contained in any preliminary prospectus to the extent that the Company complied with its prospectus delivery requirements contained herein and the particular Underwriter was legally required to and failed to send or give a copy of the Prospectus, as then amended or supplemented, to the person alleging such defect and the untrue statement or alleged untrue statement of a material fact or omission or alleged omission to state a material fact in such preliminary prospectus was corrected in such Prospectus, as amended or supplemented.

(2) *Indemnification of Underwriters by the Administrator*. The Administrator agrees to indemnify and hold harmless each Underwriter, its Affiliates, its selling agents and each person, if any, who controls any Underwriter within the meaning of Section 15 of the 1933 Act or Section 20 of the 1934 Act as follows:

(i) against any and all loss, liability, claim, damage and expense whatsoever, as incurred, arising out of any untrue statement or alleged untrue statement of a material fact contained in the Registration Statement (or any amendment thereto), including the Rule 430A Information or the omission or alleged omission therefrom of a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading or arising out of any untrue statement or alleged untrue statement of a material fact included in any preliminary prospectus or the Prospectus (or any amendment or supplement thereto), or the omission or alleged omission therefrom of a material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading to the extent the loss, liability, claim, damage and expense relates to information concerning Ares Management LLC or the Administrator;

(ii) against any and all loss, liability, claim, damage and expense whatsoever, as incurred, to the extent of the aggregate amount paid in settlement of any litigation, or any investigation or proceeding by any governmental agency or body, commenced or threatened, or of any claim whatsoever based upon any such untrue statement or omission related to Ares Management LLC or the Administrator or any such alleged untrue statement or omission related to Ares Management LLC or the Administrator; provided that (subject to Section 6(d) below) any such settlement is effected with the written consent of the Company;

(iii) against any and all expense whatsoever, as incurred (including the fees and disbursements of counsel chosen by Merrill Lynch), reasonably incurred in investigating, preparing or defending against any litigation, or any investigation or proceeding by any governmental agency or body, commenced or threatened, or any claim whatsoever based upon any such untrue statement or omission related to Ares Management LLC or the Administrator, or any such alleged untrue statement or omission related to Ares Management LLC or the Administrator, to the extent that any such expense is not paid under (i) or (ii) above;

provided , *however* , that (i) this indemnity agreement shall not apply to any loss, liability, claim, damage or expense to the extent arising out of any untrue statement or omission or alleged untrue statement or omission made in reliance upon and in conformity with written information furnished to the Company by any Underwriter through Merrill Lynch expressly for use in the Registration Statement (or any amendment thereto), including the Rule 430A Information or any preliminary prospectus or the

Prospectus (or any amendment or supplement thereto) and (ii) this indemnity agreement shall not apply, with respect to any particular Underwriter, to any loss, liability, claim, damage or expense to the extent arising out of any untrue statement or omission or alleged untrue statement or omission contained in any preliminary prospectus to the extent that the Company complied with its prospectus delivery requirements contained herein and the particular Underwriter was legally required to and failed to send or give a copy of the Prospectus, as then amended or supplemented, to the person alleging such defect and the untrue statement or alleged untrue statement of a material fact or omission or alleged omission to state a material fact in such preliminary prospectus was corrected in such Prospectus, as amended or supplemented.

(b) *Indemnification of Company, Directors, Officers, Adviser and Administrator.* Each Underwriter severally agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Company, its directors, each of its officers, each person, if any, who controls the Company, the Adviser or the Administrator within the meaning of Section 15 of the 1933 Act or Section 20 of the 1934 Act, the Adviser and the Administrator against any and all loss, liability, claim, damage and expense described in the indemnity contained in subsection (a) of this Section, as incurred, but only with respect to untrue statements or omissions, or alleged untrue statements or omissions, made in the Registration Statement (or any amendment thereto), including the Rule 430A Information or any preliminary prospectus or the Prospectus (or any amendment or supplement thereto) in reliance upon and in conformity with written information furnished to the Company by such Underwriter through Merrill Lynch expressly for use in the Registration Statement (or any amendment thereto) or such preliminary prospectus or the Prospectus (or any amendment or supplement thereto).

(c) *Actions against Parties; Notification.* Each indemnified party shall give notice as promptly as reasonably practicable to each indemnifying party of any action commenced against it in respect of which indemnity may be sought hereunder (an "Action"), but failure to so notify an indemnifying party shall not relieve such indemnifying party from any liability hereunder to the extent it is not materially prejudiced as a result thereof and in any event shall not relieve it from any liability which it may have otherwise than on account of this indemnity agreement. In the case of parties indemnified pursuant to Section 6(a)(1) or (2) above, counsel to the indemnified parties shall be selected by Merrill Lynch, and, in the case of parties indemnified pursuant to Section 6(b) above, counsel to the indemnified parties shall be selected by the Company. An indemnifying party may participate at its own expense in the defense of any such Action; *provided , however ,* that counsel to the indemnifying party shall not (except with the consent of the indemnified party) also be counsel to the indemnified party. In no event shall the indemnifying parties be liable for fees and expenses of more than one counsel (in addition to any local counsel) separate from their own counsel for all indemnified parties in connection with any one Action or separate but similar or related Actions in the same jurisdiction arising out of the same general allegations or circumstances. No indemnifying party shall, without the prior written consent of the indemnified parties, settle or compromise or consent to the entry of any judgment with respect to any litigation, or any investigation or proceeding by any governmental agency or body, commenced or threatened, or any claim whatsoever in respect of which indemnification or contribution could be sought under this Section 6 or Section 7 hereof (whether or not the indemnified parties are actual or potential parties thereto), unless such settlement, compromise or consent (i) includes an unconditional release of each indemnified party from all liability arising out of such litigation, investigation, proceeding or claim and (ii) does not include a statement as to or an admission of fault, culpability or a failure to act by or on behalf of any indemnified party. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, neither the assumption of the defense of any such Action nor the payment of any fees or expenses related thereto shall be deemed to be an admission by the indemnifying party that it has obligation to indemnify any person pursuant to this Agreement.

(d) *Settlement Without Consent if Failure to Reimburse.* If at any time an indemnified party shall have requested an indemnifying party to reimburse the indemnified party for fees and expenses of counsel, such indemnifying party agrees that it shall be liable for any settlement of the nature contemplated by Section 6(a)(1)(ii) or 6(a)(2)(ii) effected without its written consent if (i) such settlement is entered into more than 45 days after receipt by such indemnifying party of the aforesaid request, (ii) such indemnifying party shall have received notice of the terms of such settlement at least 30 days prior to such settlement being entered into and (iii) such indemnifying party shall not have reimbursed such indemnified party in accordance with such request prior to the date of such settlement.

SECTION 7. *Contribution.* If the indemnification provided for in Section 6 hereof is for any reason unavailable to or insufficient to hold harmless an indemnified party in respect of any losses, liabilities, claims, damages or expenses referred to therein, then each indemnifying party shall contribute to the aggregate amount of such losses, liabilities, claims, damages and expenses incurred by such indemnified party, as incurred, (i) in such proportion as is appropriate to reflect the relative benefits received by the Company, the Adviser and the Administrator on the one hand and the Underwriters on the other hand from the offering of the Securities pursuant to this Agreement or (ii) if the allocation provided by clause (i) is not permitted by applicable law, in such proportion as is appropriate to reflect not only the relative benefits referred to in clause (i) above but also the relative fault of the Company, the Adviser and the Administrator on the one hand and of the Underwriters on the other hand in connection with the statements or omissions which resulted in such losses, liabilities, claims, damages or expenses, as well as any other relevant equitable considerations.

The relative benefits received by the Company, the Adviser and the Administrator on the one hand and the Underwriters on the other hand in connection with the offering of the Securities pursuant to this Agreement shall be deemed to be in the same respective proportions as the total net proceeds from the offering of the Securities pursuant to this Agreement (before deducting expenses) received by the Company and the total underwriting discount received by the Underwriters, in each case as set forth on the cover of the Prospectus, bear to the aggregate initial public offering price of the Securities as set forth on the cover of the Prospectus.

The relative fault of the Company, the Adviser and the Administrator on the one hand and the Underwriters on the other hand shall be determined by reference to, among other things, whether any such untrue or alleged untrue statement of a material fact or omission or alleged omission to state a material fact relates to information supplied by the Company, the Adviser and the Administrator or by the Underwriters and the parties' relative intent, knowledge, access to information and opportunity to correct or prevent such statement or omission.

The Company, the Adviser, the Administrator and the Underwriters agree that it would not be just and equitable if contribution pursuant to this Section 7 were determined by pro rata allocation (even if the Underwriters were treated as one entity for such purpose) or by any other method of allocation which does not take account of the equitable considerations referred to above in this Section 7. The aggregate amount of losses, liabilities, claims, damages and expenses incurred by an indemnified party and referred to above in this Section 7 shall be deemed to include any legal or other expenses reasonably incurred by such indemnified party in investigating, preparing or defending against any litigation, or any investigation or proceeding by any governmental agency or body, commenced or threatened, or any claim whatsoever based upon any such untrue or alleged untrue statement or omission or alleged omission.

Notwithstanding the provisions of this Section 7, no Underwriter shall be required to contribute any amount in excess of the amount by which the total price at which the Securities underwritten by it and distributed to the public were offered to the public exceeds the amount of any damages which such

Underwriter has otherwise been required to pay by reason of any such untrue or alleged untrue statement or omission or alleged omission.

No person guilty of fraudulent misrepresentation (within the meaning of Section 11(f) of the 1933 Act) shall be entitled to contribution from any person who was not guilty of such fraudulent misrepresentation.

For purposes of this Section 7, each person, if any, who controls an Underwriter within the meaning of Section 15 of the 1933 Act or Section 20 of the 1934 Act and each Underwriter's Affiliates and selling agents shall have the same rights to contribution as such Underwriter, and each director of the Company, each officer of the Company, and each person, if any, who controls the Company, Adviser or Administrator within the meaning of Section 15 of the 1933 Act or Section 20 of the 1934 Act shall have the same rights to contribution as the Company, Adviser or Administrator, as the case may be. The Underwriters' respective obligations to contribute pursuant to this Section 7 are several in proportion to the number of Initial Securities set forth opposite their respective names in Schedule A hereto and not joint.

SECTION 8. *Representations, Warranties and Agreements to Survive.* All representations, warranties and agreements contained in this Agreement or in certificates of officers of the Company, the Subsidiary, the Adviser and the Administrator submitted pursuant hereto, shall remain operative and in full force and effect regardless of (i) any investigation made by or on behalf of any Underwriter or its Affiliates or selling agents, any person controlling any Underwriter, its officers or directors or any person controlling the Company and (ii) delivery of and payment for the Securities.

SECTION 9. *Termination of Agreement.*

(a) *Termination; General.* The Representatives may terminate this Agreement, by notice to the Company, at any time at or prior to Closing Time (i) if there has been, since the time of execution of this Agreement or since the respective dates as of which information is given in the Prospectus, any material adverse change in the condition, financial or otherwise, or in the earnings, business affairs or business prospects of the Company and the Subsidiary considered as one enterprise, the Adviser or the Administrator, whether or not arising in the ordinary course of business, or (ii) if there has occurred any material adverse change in the financial markets in the United States or the international financial markets, any outbreak of hostilities or escalation thereof or other calamity or crisis or any change or development involving a prospective change in national or international political, financial or economic conditions, in each case the effect of which is such as to make it, in the judgment of the Representatives, impracticable or inadvisable to market the Securities or to enforce contracts for the sale of the Securities, or (iii) if trading in any securities of the Company has been suspended or materially limited by the Commission or Nasdaq National Market, or if trading generally on the American Stock Exchange or the New York Stock Exchange or in the Nasdaq National Market has been suspended or materially limited, or minimum or maximum prices for trading have been fixed, or maximum ranges for prices have been required, by any of said exchanges or by such system or by order of the Commission, the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. or any other governmental authority, or (iv) a material disruption has occurred in commercial banking or securities settlement or clearance services in the United States, or (v) if a banking moratorium has been declared by either Federal or New York authorities.

(b) *Liabilities.* If this Agreement is terminated pursuant to this Section, such termination shall be without liability of any party to any other party except as provided in Section 4 hereof, and provided further that Sections 1, 6, 7 and 8 shall survive such termination and remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. *Default by One or More of the Underwriters.* If one or more of the Underwriters shall fail at Closing Time or a Date of Delivery to purchase the Securities which it or they are obligated to purchase under this Agreement (the "Defaulted Securities"), the Representatives shall

have the right, within 24 hours thereafter, to make arrangements for one or more of the non-defaulting Underwriters, or any other underwriters, to purchase all, but not less than all, of the Defaulted Securities in such amounts as may be agreed upon and upon the terms herein set forth; if, however, the Representatives shall not have completed such arrangements within such 24-hour period, then:

(i) if the number of Defaulted Securities does not exceed 10% of the number of Securities to be purchased on such date, each of the non-defaulting Underwriters shall be obligated, severally and not jointly, to purchase the full amount thereof in the proportions that their respective underwriting obligations hereunder bear to the underwriting obligations of all non-defaulting Underwriters, or

(ii) if the number of Defaulted Securities exceeds 10% of the number of Securities to be purchased on such date, this Agreement or, with respect to any Date of Delivery which occurs after the Closing Time, the obligation of the Underwriters to purchase and of the Company to sell the Option Securities to be purchased and sold on such Date of Delivery shall terminate without liability on the part of any non-defaulting Underwriter.

No action taken pursuant to this Section shall relieve any defaulting Underwriter from liability in respect of its default.

In the event of any such default which does not result in a termination of this Agreement or, in the case of a Date of Delivery which is after the Closing Time, which does not result in a termination of the obligation of the Underwriters to purchase and the Company to sell the relevant Option Securities, as the case may be, either the Representatives or the Company shall have the right to postpone Closing Time or the relevant Date of Delivery, as the case may be, for a period not exceeding seven days in order to effect any required changes in the Registration Statement or Prospectus or in any other documents or arrangements. As used herein, the term "Underwriter" includes any person substituted for an Underwriter under this Section 10.

SECTION 11. *Tax Disclosure.* Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, from the commencement of discussions with respect to the transactions contemplated hereby, the Company (and each employee, representative or other agent of the Company) may disclose to any and all persons, without limitation of any kind, the tax treatment and tax structure (as such terms are used in Sections 6011, 6111 and 6112 of the U.S. Code and the Treasury Regulations promulgated thereunder) of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and all materials of any kind (including opinions or other tax analyses) that are provided relating to such tax treatment and tax structure.

SECTION 12. *Notices.* All notices and other communications hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given if mailed or transmitted by any standard form of telecommunication. Notices to the Underwriters shall be directed to the Representatives at 4 World Financial Center, New York, New York 10080, attention of Colbert Narcisse, with a copy to Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP, One New York Plaza, New York, New York 10004, attention Valerie Ford Jacob; and notices to the Company, the Adviser and Administrator shall be directed to them at 1999 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1900, Los Angeles, CA 90067, attention of Kevin Frankel, with a copy to Proskauer Rose LLP, 2049 Century Park East, 32 nd Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90067-3206, attention: Michael A. Woronoff.

SECTION 13. *Parties* . This Agreement shall each inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the Underwriters and the Company and their respective successors. Nothing expressed or mentioned in this Agreement is intended or shall be construed to give any person, firm or corporation, other than the Underwriters, the Company, the Adviser and the Administrator and their respective successors and the controlling persons and officers and directors referred to in Sections 6 and 7 and their heirs and legal representatives, any legal or equitable right, remedy or claim under or in respect of this Agreement or any provision herein contained. This Agreement and all conditions and provisions hereof

are intended to be for the sole and exclusive benefit of the Underwriters, the Company, the Adviser and the Administrator and their respective successors, and said controlling persons and officers and directors and their heirs and legal representatives, and for the benefit of no other person, firm or corporation. No purchaser of Securities from any Underwriter shall be deemed to be a successor by reason merely of such purchase.

SECTION 14. *GOVERNING LAW.* THIS AGREEMENT SHALL BE GOVERNED BY AND CONSTRUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION SECTION 5-1401 OF THE NEW YORK GENERAL OBLIGATIONS LAW.

SECTION 15. *TIME.* TIME SHALL BE OF THE ESSENCE OF THIS AGREEMENT. EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE SET FORTH HEREIN, SPECIFIED TIMES OF DAY REFER TO NEW YORK CITY TIME.

SECTION 16. *Counterparts.* This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original, but all such counterparts shall together constitute one and the same Agreement.

SECTION 17. *Effect of Headings.* The Section headings herein are for convenience only and shall not affect the construction hereof.

If the foregoing is in accordance with your understanding of our agreement, please sign and return to the Company a counterpart hereof, whereupon this instrument, along with all counterparts, will become a binding agreement between the Underwriters, the Company, the Adviser and the Administrator in accordance with its terms.

Very truly yours,

COMPANY:

ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION

By

Name:
Title:

ADVISER:

ARES CAPITAL MANAGEMENT LLC

By

Name:
Title:

ADMINISTRATOR:

ARES TECHNICAL ADMINISTRATION LLC

By

Name:
Title:

CONFIRMED AND ACCEPTED,
as of the date first above written:

MERRILL LYNCH & CO.
MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH
INCORPORATED
WACHOVIA CAPITAL MARKETS, LLC
JEFFERIES & COMPANY, INC.
LEGG MASON WOOD WALKER,
INCORPORATED
RBC CAPITAL MARKETS CORPORATION

By: MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH
INCORPORATED

By _____

Authorized Signatory

For themselves and as Representatives of the
other Underwriters named in Schedule A hereto.

SCHEDULE A

Name of Underwriter	Number of Initial Securities

SCHEDULE B

ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION

• Shares of Common Stock
(Par Value $.001 Per Share)

1. The public offering price per share for the Securities, determined as provided in said Section 2, shall be $ • .

2. The purchase price per share for the Securities to be paid by the several Underwriters shall be $ • , being an amount equal to the public offering price set forth above less $ • per share; provided that the purchase price per share for any Option Securities purchased upon the exercise of the overallotment option described in Section 2(b) shall be reduced by an amount per share equal to any dividends or distributions declared by the Company and payable on the Initial Securities but not payable on the Option Securities.

SCHEDULE C
List of persons and entities
subject to lock-up

Ares Management LLC

Ares Capital Management LLC

Ares Technical Administration LLC

Michael J. Arougheti

Douglas E. Coltharp

Kevin A. Frankel

Merritt S. Hooper

John Kissick

Daniel F. Nguyen

Antony P. Ressler

Robert L. Rosen

Bennett Rosenthal

David Sachs

Eric B. Siegel

Exhibit A

[PROSKAUER ROSE LLP LETTERHEAD]

[Date]

Merrill Lynch & Co.
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith
Incorporated
Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC
Jefferies & Company, Inc.
Legg Mason Wood Walker, Incorporated
RBC Capital Markets Corporation
as Representatives of the several Underwriters
c/o Merrill Lynch & Co.
4 World Financial Center
250 Vesey Street
New York, New York 10281

Re: Ares Capital Corporation

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have acted as special counsel to Ares Capital Corporation, a Maryland corporation (the "Company"), in connection with its sale of (i) • shares (the "Firm Shares") of Common Stock, $.001 par value, of the Company (the "Common Stock") and (ii) at the Underwriters' option, up to an additional • shares of Common Stock (the "Option Shares" and, together with the Firm Shares, the "Shares") to the Underwriters (as defined below) pursuant to the Purchase Agreement, dated • (the "Purchase Agreement"), among the Company, Merrill Lynch & Co., Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated ("Merrill Lynch"), Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC, Jefferies & Company, Inc., Legg Mason Wood Walker, Incorporated and RBC Capital Markets Corporation and each of the other Underwriters named in Schedule A thereto (collectively, the "Underwriters") and the other parties thereto. This opinion is being delivered to you pursuant to Section 5 (b) of the Purchase Agreement. Unless otherwise defined herein, capitalized terms defined in the Purchase Agreement and used herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Purchase Agreement.

In connection with the rendering of this opinion, we have examined originals or copies, certified or otherwise identified to our satisfaction, of such receipts of public officials, certificates of officers or other representatives of the Company, Ares Capital CP Funding LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (the "Subsidiary"), Ares Capital Management LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (the "Adviser"), and others and other documents, corporate records and instruments as we have deemed relevant as a basis for the opinions set forth below, including, without limitation:

(1) an executed copy of the Purchase Agreement;

(2) the Certificate of Formation of the Adviser;

(3) the Limited Liability Company Agreement, dated as of April 20, 2004, of the Adviser;

(4) the Registration Statement on Form N-2 (Registration No. •) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") on • with respect to the registration of the Shares under the Securities Act of 1933, as in effect as of the date hereof (the "1933 Act"), including information deemed to be part of the registration statement at the time of effectiveness pursuant to Rule 430A of the General Rules and Regulations under the 1933 Act (the "Rules and Regulations") (such registration statement, as so amended and declared effective on • at

• p.m., including the registration statement filed pursuant to Rule 462(b) of the 1933 Act Regulations (File No. •), being hereinafter referred to as the "Registration Statement");

(5) the final prospectus, dated • , relating to the Shares in the form filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 497(h) of the Rules and Regulations (such final prospectus being hereinafter referred to as the "Prospectus");

(6) a specimen of the certificate to be used to evidence the Shares (the "Specimen");

(7) the Investment Advisory and Management Agreement by and between the Company and the Adviser, dated as of September 30, 2004 (the "Investment Advisory Agreement");

(8) the Administration Agreement by and between the Company and Ares Technical Administration LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (the "Administrator"), dated as of September 30, 2004 (the "Administration Agreement");

(9) resolutions of the Board of Directors of the Company, adopted , 2005 and resolutions of the Pricing Committee of the Board of Directors of the Company adopted as of , 2005 as certified by the Secretary of the Company (collectively, the "Board Resolutions");

(10) the certificate of Michael J. Arougheti, President of the Company, Kevin A. Frankel, Chief Compliance Officer and Secretary of the Company, and Daniel F. Nguyen, Chief Financial Officer of the Company, dated the date hereof (the "Company's Certificate");

(11) the certificate of Kevin A. Frankel, Chief Compliance Officer of the Adviser, and Daniel F. Nguyen, Chief Financial Officer of the Company, dated the date hereof (the "Adviser's Certificate");

(12) certificates from the Secretary of State of the State of California, dated , 2005, certifying that the Company and the Subsidiary are each authorized to do business in the State of California (the "California Certificate");

(13) certificates, dated , 2005, from the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware as to the Adviser's and the Subsidiary's existence and good standing in such jurisdiction (the "Delaware Certificates");

(14) Sale and Servicing Agreement, dated as of November 3, 2004, among the Subsidiary, the Company and certain conduits and institutional lenders agented by Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC, U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee, and Lyon Financial Services, Inc. (D/B/A U.S. Bank Portfolio Services), as the backup servicer and Purchase and Sale Agreement, dated as of November 3, 2004, by and among Ares Capital Corporation and Ares Capital CP Funding LLC (collectively, the "Facility");

(15) the Certificate of Formation, dated October 29, 2004, of the Subsidiary; and

(16) the Limited Liability Company Agreement, dated October 29, 2004, of the Subsidiary.

In giving this opinion, we have assumed the genuineness of all signatures, the legal capacity of natural persons and the authenticity of all documents we have examined. We have also assumed that each certificate evidencing Shares is identical in form to the Specimen. As to questions of fact relevant to this opinion, without any independent verification, we have relied upon, and assumed the accuracy of, the representations and warranties of each party to the Purchase Agreement, the Investment Advisory Agreement, and the Administration Agreement (collectively, the "Primary Agreements") and written statements of certain public officials. We also have assumed, without any independent verification, compliance by each party to the Primary Agreements with each party's agreements in the Primary Agreements, and that the Primary Agreements constitute the legal, valid and binding

obligations of the parties to the Primary Agreements and are enforceable against each party to the Primary Agreements in accordance with the terms of the Primary Agreements.

As used herein:

(A) "Applicable Contracts" means the contracts listed as exhibits k(1) to k(9) to the Registration Statement which have been identified to us as all the contracts that are material to the business or financial condition of the Company and the Subsidiary;

(B) "Applicable Laws" means the Limited Liability Company Act of the State of Delaware (Del. Code tit 6 §18-101 through §18-1109) (the "DLLCA") and those laws, rules and regulations of the State of New York and the federal laws, rules and regulations of the United States of America, in each case that, in our experience, are normally applicable to transactions of the type contemplated by the Purchase Agreement (other than state securities or blue sky laws, state and federal labor and employment laws, antifraud laws and the rules and regulations of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc.), but without our having made any special investigation as to the applicability of any specific law, rule or regulation;

(C) "Applicable Orders" means those judgments, order or decrees identified on Schedule I hereto, which have been identified to us by an officer of the Company as the only judgments, orders or decrees that are material to the Company and the Subsidiary;

(D) "Governmental Approval" means any consent, approval, license, authorization or validation of, or filing, qualification or registration with, any Governmental Authority required to be made or obtained by the Company or the Subsidiary pursuant to Applicable Laws, other than any consent, approval, license, authorization or validation of, or filing, qualification or registration that may have become applicable as a result of the involvement of any party (other than the Company and the Subsidiary) in the transactions contemplated by the Purchase Agreement or because of such parties' legal or regulatory status or because of any other facts specifically pertaining to such parties; and

(E) "Governmental Authorities" means any court, regulatory body, administrative agency or governmental body of the State of Delaware, the State of New York or the United States of America having jurisdiction over the Company or the Subsidiary under Applicable Laws.

The opinions set forth below are subject to the following further qualifications, assumptions and limitations:

(a) the opinion set forth in paragraph (i) below is based solely on the California Certificate;

(b) the opinions set forth in paragraphs (xii) and (xvii) below are based solely on the Delaware Certificates;

(c) we do not express any opinion as to the effect on the opinions expressed herein of (i) the compliance or noncompliance of any party to the Purchase Agreement (other than with respect to the Company to the extent necessary to render the opinions set forth herein) with any state, federal or other laws or regulations applicable to it or them or (ii) the legal or regulatory state or the nature of the business of any party (other than with respect to the Company, the Subsidiary and the Adviser to the extent necessary to render the opinions set forth herein);

(d) when reference is made in this opinion to our "knowledge" of certain matters or to matters "known to us," it means the actual present knowledge of those matters by the attorneys at our firm directly involved in acting as counsel to the Company;

(e) the opinions set forth in paragraphs (iv), (v), and (xiii) below are based solely on our discussions with the officers or other representatives of the Company responsible for the matters discussed therein, our review of documents furnished to us by the Company, and our reliance on

the representations and warranties of the parties contained in the Purchase Agreement and the Company's Certificate and our review of Applicable Law; we have not made any other inquiries or investigations or any search of the public docket records or any court, governmental agency or body or administrative agency;

(f) we do not express any opinion as to any laws other than Applicable Laws. Insofar as the opinions expressed herein relate to matters governed by laws other than those set forth in the preceding sentence, we have assumed, without having made any independent investigation, that such laws do not affect any of the opinions set forth herein. The opinions expressed herein are based on laws in effect on the date hereof, which laws are subject to change with possible retroactive effect; and

(g) the opinions set forth in paragraph (ix) below assume that (A) all of the assets owned by the Company constitute "permissible assets" as described in paragraphs (1) through (6) of Section 55(a) of the 1940 Act, (B) the Company has offered to make significant managerial assistance available (as defined in the 1940 Act) to each of the issuers of securities or loans owned by the Company and (C) the Company will comply with the Diversification Tests (as described in the Prospectus) on all relevant dates.

Based upon the foregoing and subject to the limitations, qualifications, exceptions and assumptions set forth herein, we are of the opinion that:

(i) The Company and the Subsidiary are each qualified to transact intrastate business in the State of California.

(ii) The execution and delivery of the Purchase Agreement by the Company and the Adviser, and the consummation by the Company and the Adviser of the transactions contemplated thereby on the date hereof, including the issuance and sale of the Firm Shares and the use of a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the Shares to repay outstanding indebtedness under the Facility, do not (x) constitute a violation of, or a breach or default under, the terms of any Applicable Contract or (y) violate or conflict with, or result in any contravention of any Applicable Law or any Applicable Order. We do not express any opinion, however, as to whether the execution, delivery or performance by any such person of the Purchase Agreement will constitute a violation of, or a default under, any covenant, restriction or provision with respect to financial ratios or tests or any aspect of the financial condition or results of operations of the Adviser or the Company or any of its subsidiaries.

(iii) The Registration Statement, at the time it became effective, and the Prospectus, as of its date, complied as to form in all material respects to the requirements of the 1933 Act, the Rules and Regulations, the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended (the "Advisers Act") and the Form N-2 Registration Statement promulgated by the Commission, except that in each case we do not express any opinion as to the financial statements and schedules and other financial data included therein or excluded therefrom, or the financial data included in any exhibits thereto, and, we do not assume any responsibility for the accuracy, completeness or fairness of the statements contained in the Registration Statement or the Prospectus.

(iv) To our knowledge, there are no legal or governmental proceedings pending to which the Company, the Subsidiary or the Adviser is a party or to which any property of the Company, the Subsidiary or the Adviser is subject that are required to be disclosed in the Prospectus pursuant to Item 12 of the Form N-2 Registration Statement promulgated by the Commission that are not so disclosed.

(v) To our knowledge, except as disclosed in the Registration Statement, there are no persons with rights to have any sale of securities registered pursuant to the Registration Statement or otherwise registered by the Company under the 1933 Act.

(vi) The statements in the Prospectus under the caption "Regulation," insofar as such statements purport to summarize matters of law, legal matters or legal conclusions, fairly summarize such provisions in all material respects.

(vii) The statements in the Prospectus under the caption "Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations," insofar as such statements purport to summarize matters of law, legal matters or legal conclusions, fairly summarize such provisions in all material respects.

(viii) Immediately following the purchase and sale of the Firm Shares, the Company will not be required to register as an "Investment Company" under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, and the rules and regulations thereunder (collectively, the "1940 Act").

(ix) To our knowledge, no Governmental Approval, that has not been obtained or taken and is not in full force and effect, is required to authorize, or is required in connection with, the execution or delivery of the Purchase Agreement by the Company or the Adviser, as applicable, the consummation by the Company or the Adviser of the transactions contemplated thereby on the date hereof, including the issuance and sale of the Firm Shares and the use of a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the Shares to repay outstanding indebtedness under the Facility as described in the Prospectus.

(x) The Investment Advisory Agreement contains the provisions required by Section 205 of the Advisers Act and Section 15 of the 1940 Act.

(xi) The Company has filed a Notice of Election with the Commission pursuant to Section 54(a) of the 1940 Act. The Notification of Election filed by the Company with the Commission complied as to form in all material respects with the 1940 Act and the rules and regulations thereunder.

(xii) The Adviser has been duly formed and is validly existing as a limited liability company in good standing under the DLLCA.

(xiii) The Adviser has the limited liability company power and authority to execute and deliver the Purchase Agreement under the DLLCA. The Purchase Agreement has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Adviser.

(xiv) The Adviser is registered with the Commission as an investment adviser under the Advisers Act. To our knowledge, (a) the Adviser is not prohibited by the Advisers Act or the 1940 Act from acting under the Investment Advisory Agreement as an investment adviser to the Company, as contemplated by the Registration Statement and the Prospectus, and (b) there is no proceeding pending that could reasonably be expected to adversely affect the registration of the Adviser with the Commission.

(xv) To our knowledge, there are no contracts required to be described in the Prospectus or filed as exhibits to the Registration Statement that are not described or filed as required.

We have been orally advised by the Commission that the Registration Statement was declared effective under the 1933 Act at • p.m. on • , and we have been orally advised by the Commission that no stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement has been issued and, to our knowledge, no proceedings for that purpose have been instituted or are pending or threatened by the Commission. The Prospectus was filed with the Commission in the manner and within the time period required by Rule 497(h) of the Rules and Regulations.

In the course of the preparation of the Registration Statement and the Prospectus, we have participated in conferences with certain officers and other representatives of the Company, the Subsidiary, the Adviser and the Administrator, with representatives of the independent or certified public accountants for the Company and with representatives of the Representatives and counsel for

the Underwriters at which the contents of the Registration Statement and the Prospectus and related matters were discussed. We do not pass upon or assume any responsibility for the accuracy, completeness or fairness of the statements contained in the Registration Statement or the Prospectus and have made no independent check or verification thereof other than as expressly set forth in this opinion. On the basis of the foregoing, nothing has come to our attention that would lead us to believe that the Registration Statement (other than the financial statements and related notes thereto and the other financial and accounting data set forth therein or omitted therefrom, as to which we express no view), as of its effective date, contained an untrue statement of a material fact or omitted to state a material fact necessary to make the statements therein not misleading or that the Prospectus (other than the financial statements and related notes thereto and the other financial and accounting data set forth therein or omitted therefrom, as to which we express no view) as of its date and the Closing Date, contained or contains an untrue statement of a material fact or omitted or omits to state a material fact necessary to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

This opinion is addressed to you and is solely for your benefit, and the benefit of the other Underwriters, and only in connection with the closing of the transactions contemplated by the Purchase Agreement occurring today. Our opinion is not binding on the Internal Revenue Service or on the courts, and, therefore, provides no guarantee or certainty as to results. Without our prior written consent, this letter may not be used, circulated, quoted or otherwise referred to for any other purpose or relied upon by, or assigned to, any other person for any purpose, including any other person that acquires Shares or that seeks to assert your rights in respect of this letter (other than your successor in interest by means of merger, consolidation or other similar transaction).

Very truly yours,

SCHEDULE I

NONE

Exhibit B

[LETTERHEAD OF VENABLE LLP]

, 2005

MERRILL LYNCH & CO.
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated
Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC
Jefferies & Company, Inc.
Legg Mason Wood Walker, Incorporated
RBC Capital Markets Corporation
as Representatives of the several Underwriters
c/o Merrill Lynch & Co.
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith
Incorporated
4 World Financial Center
New York, New York 10080

Re: **Ares Capital Corporation**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have served as Maryland counsel for Ares Capital Corporation, a Maryland corporation (the "Company"), and a business development company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"), in connection with certain matters of Maryland law arising out of the sale and issuance of • shares (the "Shares") of Common Stock, $.001 par value per share (the "Common Stock"), of the Company, pursuant to the Purchase Agreement, dated • (the "Purchase Agreement"), by and among the Company, Ares Capital Management LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (the "Adviser"), Ares Technical Administration LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (the "Administrator"), and Merrill Lynch & Co. and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC, Jefferies & Company, Inc., Legg Mason Wood Walker, Incorporated and RBC Capital Markets Corporation as Representatives of the Underwriters named in Schedule A to the Purchase Agreement (collectively, the "Underwriters"). This firm did not participate in the negotiation or drafting of the Purchase Agreement.

This opinion is being delivered to you pursuant to Section 5(b) of the Purchase Agreement. Unless otherwise defined herein, capitalized terms used herein have the meanings given to them in the Purchase Agreement.

In connection with our representation of the Company, and as a basis for the opinion hereinafter set forth, we have examined originals, or copies certified or otherwise identified to our satisfaction, of the following documents (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Documents"):

1. The Registration Statement on Form N-2 (File No. •) of the Company, relating to the Shares, and all amendments thereto and including the registration statement filed pursuant to Rule 462(b) of the 1933 Act Regulations (File No. •) (collectively, the "Registration Statement"), filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and the form of Prospectus, dated • (the "Prospectus"), included therein;

2. The charter of the Company (the "Charter"), certified as of a recent date by the State Department of Assessments and Taxation of Maryland (the "SDAT");

3. The Bylaws of the Company (the "Bylaws"), certified as of the date hereof by an officer of the Company;

4. A certificate of the SDAT as to the good standing of the Company, dated as of a recent date;

5. Resolutions adopted by the Board of Directors of the Company, or by a duly authorized committee thereof (the "Resolutions"), relating to, among other matters, (a) the sale and issuance of the Shares to the Underwriters, (b) the authorization of the execution and delivery by the Company of the Company Agreements (as defined herein), and (c) the issuance of the shares of Common Stock issued and outstanding as of the date hereof, certified as of the date hereof by an officer of the Company;

6. Resolutions of the sole stockholder of the Company relating to the approval of the Investment Advisory Agreement (as defined herein), certified as of the date hereof by an officer of the Company;

7. The form of certificate representing shares of Common Stock (the "Common Stock Certificate"), certified as of the date hereof by an officer of the Company;

8. The Purchase Agreement, certified as of the date hereof by an officer of the Company;

9. The Investment Advisory and Management Agreement, dated as of September 30, 2004 (the "Investment Advisory Agreement"), by and between the Company and the Adviser, certified as of the date hereof by an officer of the Company;

10. The Administration Agreement, dated as of September 30, 2004 (the "Administration Agreement" and, together with the Purchase Agreement and the Investment Advisory Agreement, the "Company Agreements"), by and between the Company and the Administrator, certified as of the date hereof by an officer of the Company;

11. A certificate executed by an officer of the Company, dated as of the date hereof (the "Officer's Certificate"); and

12. Such other documents and matters as we have deemed necessary or appropriate to express the opinion set forth below, subject to the assumptions, limitations and qualifications stated herein.

In expressing the opinion set forth below, we have assumed the following:

1. Each individual executing any of the Documents, whether on behalf of such individual or another person, is legally competent to do so.

2. Each individual executing any of the Documents on behalf of a party (other than the Company) is duly authorized to do so.

3. Each of the parties (other than the Company) executing any of the Documents has duly and validly executed and delivered each of the Documents to which such party is a signatory, and such party's obligations set forth therein are legal, valid and binding and are enforceable in accordance with all stated terms.

4. All Documents submitted to us as originals are authentic. The form and content of all Documents submitted to us as unexecuted drafts do not differ in any respect relevant to this opinion from the form and content of such Documents as executed and delivered. All Documents submitted to us as certified or photostatic copies conform to the original documents. All signatures on all Documents are genuine. All public records reviewed or relied upon by us or on our behalf are true and complete. All representations, warranties, statements and information contained in the Documents are true and complete. There has been no oral or written modification of or amendment to any of the Documents, and there has been no waiver of any provision of any of the Documents, by action or omission of the parties or otherwise.

The phrase "known to us" is limited to the actual knowledge, without independent inquiry, of the lawyers at our firm who have performed legal services in connection with the initial public offering of the Company.

Based upon the foregoing, and subject to the assumptions, limitations and qualifications stated herein, it is our opinion that:

1. The Company is a corporation duly incorporated and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Maryland and is in good standing with the SDAT.

2. The Company has the corporate power to own, lease and operate its properties and to conduct its business as described in the Prospectus under the caption "The Company" and to enter into and perform its obligations under the Purchase Agreement.

3. The authorized, issued and outstanding stock of the Company is as set forth in the Prospectus in the column entitled "Actual" under the caption "Capitalization" (except for subsequent issuances, if any, pursuant to the Purchase Agreement or pursuant to reservations, agreements or employee benefit plans referred to in the Prospectus or pursuant to the exercise of convertible securities or options referred to in the Prospectus); the shares of issued and outstanding stock of the Company have been duly authorized and validly issued and are fully paid and non assessable; and none of the outstanding shares of stock of the Company was issued in violation of the preemptive or other similar rights of any securityholder of the Company under the Maryland General Corporation Law (the "MGCL") or the Charter or Bylaws.

4. The Shares have been duly authorized for issuance and sale to the Underwriters pursuant to the Purchase Agreement and, when issued and delivered by the Company pursuant to the Purchase Agreement against payment of the consideration set forth in the Purchase Agreement, will be validly issued and fully paid and non assessable and no holder of the Shares is or will be subject to personal liability by reason of being such a holder.

5. The issuance of the Shares is not subject to preemptive or other similar rights of any securityholder of the Company under the MGCL or the Charter or Bylaws.

6. The Company Agreements have been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company.

7. The Common Stock Certificate complies in all material respects with the applicable requirements of the MGCL and the Charter and Bylaws.

8. Based solely upon the Officer's Certificate and upon any facts otherwise known to us, there is no action, suit, proceeding, inquiry or investigation pending (in which service of process has been received by an employee of the Company), or threatened, to which the Company or the property of the Company is subject, before or by any court or governmental agency or body of the State of Maryland which would reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect, or which would reasonably be expected to materially and adversely affect the properties or assets of the Company or the consummation of the transactions contemplated in the Purchase Agreement or the performance by the Company of its obligations thereunder. We call your attention to the fact that, in connection with the delivery of this opinion, we have not ordered or reviewed judgment, lien or any other searches of public or private records of the Company or its properties.

9. The information in the Prospectus under the caption "Description of Our Stock" and in the Registration Statement under the caption "Item 30. Indemnification," to the extent it purports to summarize matters arising under Maryland law or the Charter and Bylaws has been reviewed by us and is correct in all material respects.

10. No filing with, or authorization, approval, consent, license, order, registration, qualification or decree of, any court or governmental authority or agency of the State of Maryland (other than as may be required under the securities or "blue sky" laws of the State of Maryland, as to which no opinion is expressed) is required in connection with the due authorization, execution and delivery of the Company Agreements or for the offering, issuance, sale or delivery of the Shares, except such as have been obtained or made.

11. The execution, delivery and performance of the Company Agreements and the consummation of the transactions contemplated therein and in the Registration Statement (including the issuance and sale of the Shares and the use of the proceeds from the sale of the Shares as described in the Prospectus under the caption "Use Of Proceeds") and the performance by the Company of its obligations under the Company Agreements do not and will not result in any violation of (a) the provisions of the Charter or Bylaws or (b) so far as is known to us, any applicable law, statute, rule, regulation, judgment, order, writ or decree of any government, government instrumentality or court of the State of Maryland. We call your attention to the fact that, in connection with the delivery of this opinion, we have not ordered or reviewed judgment, lien or any other searches of public or private records of the Company or its properties.

The foregoing opinion is limited to the substantive laws of the State of Maryland and we do not express any opinion herein concerning any other law. We express no opinion as to the applicability or effect of federal or state securities laws, including the securities laws of the State of Maryland, or the 1940 Act or as to federal or state laws regarding fraudulent transfers. We note that the Company Agreements shall be governed by the laws of the State of New York. To the extent that any matter as to which our opinion is expressed herein would be governed by the laws of any jurisdiction other than the State of Maryland, we do not express any opinion on such matter. Our opinion expressed in paragraph 10 above is based upon our consideration of only those filings, authorizations, approvals, consents, licenses, orders, registrations, qualifications or decrees required by the State of Maryland, if any, which, in our experience, are normally applicable to transactions of the type contemplated by the Purchase Agreement. Our opinion expressed in paragraph 11(b) above is based upon our consideration of only those laws, statutes, rules, regulations, judgments, orders, writs or decrees of governmental authorities or courts of the State of Maryland, if any, which, in our experience, are normally applicable to transactions of the type contemplated by the Company Agreements. The opinion expressed herein is subject to the effect of any judicial decision which may permit the introduction of parol evidence to modify the terms or the interpretation of agreements.

The opinion expressed herein is limited to the matters specifically set forth herein and no other opinion shall be inferred beyond the matters expressly stated. We assume no obligation to supplement this opinion if any applicable law changes after the date hereof or if we become aware of any fact that might change the opinion expressed herein after the date hereof.

This opinion is being furnished to you solely for the Underwriters' benefit. Accordingly, it may not be relied upon by, quoted in any manner to, or delivered to any other person or entity (other than Proskauer Rose LLP, counsel to the Company, and Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP, counsel to the Underwriters, in connection with opinions to be issued by them on the date hereof relating to the issuance of the Shares) without, in each instance, our prior written consent.

Very truly yours,

Exhibit C

[ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION LETTERHEAD]

, 2005

Merrill Lynch & Co.
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith
Incorporated
Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC
Jefferies & Company, Inc.
Legg Mason Wood Walker, Incorporated
RBC Capital Markets Corporation
as Representatives of the several Underwriters
c/o Merrill Lynch & Co.
4 World Financial Center
250 Vesey Street
New York, New York 10281

Re: Ares Technical Administration

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am the general counsel for Ares Technical Administration, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (the "Administrator"), in connection with the sale by Ares Capital Corporation, a Maryland corporation (the "Company") of (i) shares (the "Firm Shares") of Common Stock, $.001 par value, of the Company (the "Common Stock") and (ii) at the Underwriters' option, up to an additional shares of Common Stock (the "Option Shares" and, together with the Firm Shares, the "Shares") to the Underwriters (as defined below) pursuant to the Purchase Agreement, dated , 2005 (the "Purchase Agreement"), among the Company, Merrill Lynch & Co., Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated ("Merrill Lynch"), Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC, Jefferies & Company, Inc., Legg Mason Wood Walker, Incorporated, RBC Capital Markets Corporation and each of the other Underwriters named in Schedule A thereto (collectively, the "Underwriters") and the other parties thereto. This opinion is being delivered to you pursuant to Section 5 (b) of the Purchase Agreement. Unless otherwise defined herein, capitalized terms defined in the Purchase Agreement and used herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Purchase Agreement.

In connection with the rendering of this opinion, I have examined originals or copies, certified or otherwise identified to my satisfaction, of such receipts of public officials, certificates of officers or other representatives of the Administrator, the Company, Ares Capital Management LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (the "Adviser"), and others and other documents, corporate records and instruments as I have deemed relevant as a basis for the opinions set forth below, including, without limitation:

(1) an executed copy of the Purchase Agreement;

(2) the Certificate of Formation of the Administrator;

(3) the Limited Liability Company Agreement, dated as of June 25, 1999, of the Administrator;

(4) the Registration Statement on Form N-2 (Registration No.) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") on , 2005 with respect to the registration of the Shares under the Securities Act of 1933, as in effect as of the date hereof (the

"1933 Act"), including information deemed to be part of the registration statement at the time of effectiveness pursuant to Rule 430A of the General Rules and Regulations under the 1933 Act (the "Rules and Regulations") (such registration statement, as so amended and declared effective on , 2005 at p.m., including the registration statement filed pursuant to Rule 462(b) of the 1933 Act Regulations (File No.), being hereinafter referred to as the "Registration Statement");

(5) the final prospectus, dated March 17, 2005, relating to the Shares in the form filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 497 (h) of the Rules and Regulations (such final prospectus being hereinafter referred to as the "Prospectus");

(6) the Administration Agreement by and between the Company and the Administrator, dated as of September 30, 2004 (the "Administration Agreement");

(7) certified resolutions of the manager of the Administrator, adopted , 2005;

(8) a certificate from the Secretary of State of the State of California, dated , 2005, certifying that the Administrator is authorized to do business in the State of California (the "California Certificate"); and

(9) a certificate dated , 2005, from the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware as to the Administrator's existence and good standing in such jurisdiction (the "Delaware Certificate").

I am not licensed to practice law in any state other than the State of California. My opinions set forth below are limited to (i) the Limited Liability Company Act of the State of Delaware (Del. Code tit 6 §18-101 through §18-1109) (the "DLLCA") and those laws, rules and regulations of the State of California, in each case that, in my experience, are normally applicable to transactions of the type contemplated by the Purchase Agreement and Administration Agreement (other than securities or blue sky laws, labor and employment laws, antifraud laws and the rules and regulations of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc.), but without my having made any special investigation as to the applicability of any specific law, rule or regulation (collectively, "Applicable Laws") and (ii) for the purposes of rendering opinion (vi) below only, the Investment Company Act of 1940 and the Securities Act of 1933. With your approval, I have assumed that matters involving the laws of the State of New York are the same as the laws of the State of California.

In giving this opinion, I have assumed the genuineness of all signatures, the legal capacity of natural persons and the authenticity of all documents I have examined. As to questions of fact relevant to this opinion, without any independent verification, I have relied upon, and assumed the accuracy of, the representations and warranties of each party to the Purchase Agreement and the Administration Agreement (collectively, the "Primary Agreements") and written statements of certain public officials. I also have assumed, without any independent verification, compliance by each party to the Primary Agreements with each party's agreements in the Primary Agreements, and that the Primary Agreements constitute the legal, valid and binding obligations of the parties to the Primary Agreements and are enforceable against each party to the Primary Agreements in accordance with the terms of the Primary Agreements.

As used herein:

(A) "Applicable Contracts" means the contracts listed on Schedule I hereto which have been identified to me by the Administrator as all the contracts that are material to the business or financial condition of the Administrator;

(C) "Applicable Orders" means those judgments, order or decrees identified on Schedule II hereto, which have been identified to me by the Administrator as the only judgments, orders or decrees that are material to the business or financial condition of the Administrator;

(D) "Governmental Authorities" means any court, regulatory body, administrative agency or governmental body of the State of Delaware or the State of California having jurisdiction over the Company under Applicable Laws; and

(E) "Governmental Approval" means any consent, approval, license, authorization or validation of, or filing, qualification or registration with, any Governmental Authority required to be made or obtained by the Administrator pursuant to Applicable Laws, other than any consent, approval, license, authorization or validation of, or filing, qualification or registration that may have become applicable as a result of the involvement of any party (other than the Administrator) in the transactions contemplated by the Purchase Agreement or because of such parties' legal or regulatory status or because of any other facts specifically pertaining to such parties.

The opinions set forth below are subject to the following further qualifications, assumptions and limitations:

(a) the opinion set forth in paragraph (i) below is based solely on the Delaware Certificate;

(b) I do not express any opinion as to the effect on the opinions expressed herein of (i) the compliance or noncompliance of any party to the Purchase Agreement (other than with respect to the Administrator to the extent necessary to render the opinions set forth herein) with any state, federal or other laws or regulations applicable to it or them or (ii) the legal or regulatory state or the nature of the business of any party (other than with respect to the Administrator to the extent necessary to render the opinions set forth herein);

(c) when reference is made in this opinion to my "knowledge" of certain matters or to matters "known to me," it means the actual present knowledge of those matters by me;

(d) the opinions set forth in paragraphs (v) and (vi) below are based solely on my discussions with the officers or other representatives of the Administrator responsible for the matters discussed therein, my review of documents furnished to me by the Administrator, and my reliance on the representations and warranties of the parties contained in the Purchase Agreement and my review of Applicable Law; I have not made any other inquiries or investigations or any search of the public docket records or any court, governmental agency or body or administrative agency;

(e) I do not express any opinion as to any laws other than Applicable Laws. Insofar as the opinions expressed herein relate to matters governed by laws other than those set forth in the preceding sentence, I have assumed, without having made any independent investigation, that such laws do not affect any of the opinions set forth herein. The opinions expressed herein are based on laws in effect on the date hereof, which laws are subject to change with possible retroactive effect.

Based upon the foregoing and subject to the limitations, qualifications, exceptions and assumptions set forth herein, I am of the opinion that:

(i) The Administrator has been duly formed and is validly existing as a limited liability company in good standing under the DLLCA.

(ii) The Administrator has the limited liability company power and authority to execute and deliver the Purchase Agreement and the Administration Agreement.

(iii) The Purchase Agreement has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Administrator.

(iv) The execution and delivery by the Administrator of the Purchase Agreement and the consummation by the Administrator of the transactions contemplated thereby do not (a) constitute a violation of, or a breach or default under, the terms of any Applicable Contract or (b) violate or conflict with, or result in any contravention of, the Administrator's Certificate of Formation or any Applicable Law or any Applicable Order.

(v) To my knowledge, no Governmental Approval, that has not been obtained or taken and is not in full force and effect, is required to authorize, or is required in connection with, the execution or delivery of the Purchase Agreement by the Administrator or the consummation by the Administrator of the transactions contemplated thereby.

(vi) To my knowledge, there are no legal or governmental proceedings pending to which the Administrator is a party or to which any property of the Administrator is subject that are required to be disclosed in the Prospectus pursuant to Item 12 of the Form N-2 Registration Statement promulgated by the Commission that are not so disclosed.

This opinion is addressed to you and is solely for your benefit, and the benefit of the other Underwriters, and only in connection with the closing of the transactions contemplated by the Purchase Agreement occurring today. Without my prior written consent, this letter may not be used, circulated, quoted or otherwise referred to for any other purpose or relied upon by, or assigned to, any other person for any purpose, including any other person that acquires Shares or that seeks to assert your rights in respect of this letter (other than your successor in interest by means of merger, consolidation or other similar transaction).

Very truly yours,

Kevin A. Frankel
General Counsel

SCHEDULE I

Limited Liability Company Agreement, dated as of June 25, 1999, of the Administrator.

SCHEDULE II

None.

Exhibit D

[Form of lock-up from directors, officers or other stockholders pursuant to Section 5(i)]

• , 2005

MERRILL LYNCH & CO.
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith
Incorporated,
Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC
Jefferies & Company, Inc.
Legg Mason Wood Walker, Incorporated
RBC Capital Markets Corporation
as Representatives of the several
Underwriters to be named in the
within-mentioned Purchase Agreement
c/o Merrill Lynch & Co.
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith
Incorporated
4 World Financial Center
New York, New York 10080

Re: Proposed Public Offering by Ares Capital Corporation

Dear Sirs:

The undersigned, a stockholder, officer, director, employee, partner and/or affiliate of Ares Capital Corporation, a Maryland corporation (the "Company"), or Ares Capital Management LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (the "Adviser"), understands that Merrill Lynch & Co., Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated ("Merrill Lynch"), Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC, Jefferies & Company, Inc., Legg Mason Wood Walker, Incorporated and RBC Capital Markets Corporation propose to enter into a Purchase Agreement (the "Purchase Agreement") with the Company providing for the public offering of shares (the "Securities") of the Company's common stock, par value $.001 per share (the "Common Stock"). In recognition of the benefit that such an offering will confer upon the undersigned as a stockholder, officer, director, employee, partner and/or affiliate of the Company or Adviser, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the undersigned agrees with each underwriter to be named in the Purchase Agreement that, during a period of 90 days from the date of the Purchase Agreement (the "Initial Lock-Up Period"), the undersigned will not, without the prior written consent of Merrill Lynch, directly or indirectly, (i) offer, pledge, sell, contract to sell, sell any option or contract to purchase, purchase any option or contract to sell, grant any option, right or warrant for the sale of, or otherwise dispose of or transfer any shares of the Company's Common Stock or any securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for Common Stock, whether now owned or hereafter acquired by the undersigned or with respect to which the undersigned has or hereafter acquires the power of disposition, or file, or cause to be filed, any registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, with respect to any of the foregoing (collectively, the "Lock-Up Securities") or (ii) enter into any swap or any other agreement or any transaction that transfers, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, the economic consequence of ownership of the Lock-Up Securities, whether any such swap or transaction is to be settled by delivery of Common Stock or other securities, in cash or otherwise.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if:

1. during the last 17 days of the Initial Lock-Up Period, the Company issues an earnings release or material news or a material event relating to the Company occurs; or

2. prior to the expiration of the Initial Lock-Up Period, the Company announces that it will release earnings results or becomes aware that material news or a material event will occur during the 16-day period beginning on the last day of the Initial Lock-Up Period,

the restrictions imposed by this letter shall continue to apply until the expiration of the 18-day period beginning on the issuance of the earnings release or the occurrence of the material news or material event, as applicable, unless Merrill Lynch waives, in writing, such extension.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the undersigned may transfer Common Stock either during his or her lifetime as a bona fide gift or on death by will or intestacy to a member of his or her immediate family or to a trust, the beneficiaries of which are exclusively the undersigned and/or a member or members of his or her immediate family or to a charitable organization; provided, however, that it shall be a condition to any of the foregoing transfers described in this paragraph that prior to or concurrently with the transfer, the transferee execute and deliver an agreement to Merrill Lynch (on behalf of the Underwriters) stating that the transferee will receive and hold the Common Stock subject to this letter, and there shall be no further transfer of such Common Stock except in accordance with this letter.

Very truly yours,

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

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Exhibit (l)

[LETTERHEAD OF VENABLE LLP]

May 12, 2006

Ares Capital Corporation
780 Third Avenue, 46th Floor
New York, New York 10017

Re: Registration Statement on Form N-2

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have served as Maryland counsel to Ares Capital Corporation, a Maryland corporation (the "Company"), and a business development company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"), in connection with certain matters of Maryland law arising out of the registration of shares (the "Shares") of common stock, $.001 par value per share (the "Common Stock"), of the Company having an aggregate initial offering price of up to $250,000,000, covered by the above-referenced Registration Statement, and all amendments thereto (the "Registration Statement"), filed by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the 'Commission') under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "1933 Act"). Unless otherwise defined herein, capitalized terms used herein shall have the meanings assigned to them in the Registration Statement.

In connection with our representation of the Company, and as a basis for the opinion hereinafter set forth, we have examined originals, or copies certified or otherwise identified to our satisfaction, of the following documents (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Documents"):

1. The Registration Statement and the form of prospectus included therein, substantially in the form transmitted to the Commission under the 1933 Act;

2. The charter of the Company (the "Charter"), certified as of a recent date by the State Department of Assessments and Taxation of Maryland (the "SDAT");

3. The Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Company (the "Bylaws"), certified as of the date hereof by an officer of the Company;

4. A certificate of the SDAT as to the good standing of the Company, dated as of a recent date;

5. Resolutions adopted by the Board of Directors of the Company (the "Board") relating to the registration of the Shares (the "Resolutions"), certified as of the date hereof by an officer of the Company;

6. A certificate executed by an officer of the Company, dated as of the date hereof; and

7. Such other documents and matters as we have deemed necessary or appropriate to express the opinion set forth below, subject to the assumptions, limitations and qualifications stated herein.

In expressing the opinion set forth below, we have assumed the following:

1. Each individual executing any of the Documents, whether on behalf of such individual or any other person, is legally competent to do so.

2. Each individual executing any of the Documents on behalf of a party (other than the Company) is duly authorized to do so.

3. Each of the parties (other than the Company) executing any of the Documents has duly and validly executed and delivered each of the Documents to which such party is a signatory, and

such party's obligations set forth therein are legal, valid and binding and are enforceable in accordance with all stated terms.

4. All Documents submitted to us as originals are authentic. The form and content of all Documents submitted to us as unexecuted drafts do not differ in any respect relevant to this opinion from the form and content of such Documents as executed and delivered. All Documents submitted to us as certified or photostatic copies conform to the original documents. All signatures on all such Documents are genuine. All public records reviewed or relied upon by us or on our behalf are true and complete. All representations, warranties, statements and information contained in the Documents are true and complete. There has been no oral or written modification of or amendment to any of the Documents, and there has been no waiver of any provision of any of the Documents, by action or omission of the parties or otherwise.

5. Prior to the issuance of any of the Shares, the Board, or a duly authorized committee thereof, will, in accordance with the Maryland General Corporation Law, the Charter, the Bylaws and the Resolutions, determine the number, and certain terms of issuance, of such Shares (the "Corporate Proceedings").

Based upon the foregoing, and subject to the assumptions, limitations and qualifications stated herein, it is our opinion that:

1. The Company is a corporation duly incorporated and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Maryland and is in good standing with the SDAT.

2. Upon the completion of all Corporate Proceedings relating to the Shares, the issuance of the Shares will have been duly authorized and, when and if delivered against payment therefor in accordance with the Registration Statement, the Resolutions and the Corporate Proceedings, the Shares will be (assuming that, upon the issuance of the Shares, the total number of shares of Common Stock issued and outstanding will not exceed the total number of shares of Common Stock that the Company is then authorized to issue under the Charter) validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

The foregoing opinion is limited to the laws of the State of Maryland and we do not express any opinion herein concerning any other law. We express no opinion as to compliance with federal or state securities laws, including the securities laws of the State of Maryland, or the 1940 Act.

The opinion expressed herein is limited to the matters specifically set forth herein and no other opinion shall be inferred beyond the matters expressly stated. We assume no obligation to supplement this opinion if any applicable law changes after the date hereof or if we become aware of any fact that might change the opinion expressed herein after the date hereof.

This opinion is being furnished to you for submission to the Commission as an exhibit to the Registration Statement. We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement. In giving this consent, we do not admit that we are within the category of persons whose consent is required by Section 7 of the 1933 Act.

Very truly yours,

/s/ VENABLE LLP

QuickLinks

[LETTERHEAD OF VENABLE LLP]

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Exhibit (n)(1)

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

The Board of Directors and Stockholders
Ares Capital Corporation:

We consent to the use of our report dated February 17, 2006, with respect to the consolidated financial statements of Ares Capital Corporation and our report dated May 12, 2006 on the senior securities table of Ares Capital Corporation, included herein, and to the references to our firm under the headings "Selected Financial and Other Data" and "Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm" in the registration statement.

KPMG LLP

Los Angeles, California
May 12, 2006

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CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Exhibit (n)(2)

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

The Board of Directors and Stockholders
Ares Capital Corporation:

We have audited the senior securities table of Ares Capital Corporation as of December 31, 2005 included on page 51 of the registration statement, except for the amounts indicated as unaudited on the senior securities table. This schedule is the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this schedule based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the securities table is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the schedule. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall schedule presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the senior securities table referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the senior securities of Ares Capital Corporation as of December 31, 2005, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

KPMG LLP

Los Angeles, California
May 12, 2006