

BGC Partners, Inc.
Form S-3ASR
August 17, 2017
Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on August 17, 2017

Registration No. 333-

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

FORM S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

BGC PARTNERS, INC.
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Delaware
(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation or Organization)

13-4063515
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

Edgar Filing: BGC Partners, Inc. - Form S-3ASR

499 Park Avenue

New York, New York 10022

(212) 610-2200

(Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Registrant's Principal Executive Offices)

Stephen M. Merkel

Executive Vice President,

General Counsel and Secretary

BGC Partners, Inc.

499 Park Avenue

New York, New York 10022

(212) 610-2200

(212) 829-4708 fax

(Name, Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Agent for Service)

Copies to:

Christopher T. Jensen

George G. Yearsich

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

101 Park Avenue

New York, New York 10178

(212) 309-6000

(212) 309-6001 fax

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of this registration statement.

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

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

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

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

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, a smaller reporting company or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer, smaller reporting company and emerging growth company in Rule 12b-2 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934:

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Smaller reporting company

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the Registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| Title of Each Class of | Amount to be Registered | Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit | Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price | Amount of Registration Fee |
|---|-------------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------|
| Securities to be Registered | | | | |
| 5.125% Senior Notes due 2021 (5.125% senior notes)(1) | (1) | (1) | (1) | (2) |

- (1) This Registration Statement relates to offers and sales of an indeterminate amount of the Registrant's 5.125% senior notes in connection with ongoing market-making transactions in the 5.125% senior notes by and through affiliates of the registrant.
- (2) Pursuant to Rule 457(q) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), no filing fee is required for the registration of an indeterminate amount of the 5.125% senior notes to be offered and sold in market-making transactions by affiliates of the Registrant.

Table of Contents

BGC PARTNERS, INC.

5.125% Senior Notes due 2021

This prospectus of BGC Partners, Inc., which we refer to as BGC Partners, BGC, the Company, we, us, or our, used by our affiliate, Cantor Fitzgerald & Co., which we refer to as CF&Co., in connection with offers and sales by CF&Co. of our 5.125% Senior Notes due 2021 (Cusip No. 05541T AG6), which we refer to as the 5.125% senior notes, in ongoing market-making transactions. Market-making transactions in the 5.125% senior notes may occur in the open market or may be privately negotiated at prevailing market prices at the time of sale or at related or negotiated prices. In these transactions, CF&Co. may act as principal or agent, including as agent for the counterparty in a transaction in which CF&Co. acts as principal, or as agent for both counterparties in a transaction in which CF&Co. does not act as a principal. CF&Co. may receive compensation in the form of discounts and commissions, including from both counterparties in some cases. Other affiliates of ours may also engage in market-making transactions of this kind and may use this prospectus for that purpose.

We will not receive any proceeds from these market-making transactions.

Neither CF&Co., nor any of our other affiliates, has any obligation to make a market in our 5.125% senior notes, and CF&Co. or any such other affiliate may discontinue market-making activities at any time without notice.

The 5.125% senior notes are not listed on any exchange.

An investment in our securities involves risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page 3 of this prospectus, as well as the Risk Factors section of our latest Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which we refer to as the SEC, and any updates to those risk factors or new risk factors contained in our subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC, all of which we incorporate by reference herein.

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

The date of this prospectus is August 17, 2017.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| <u>SPECIAL NOTE ON FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u> | ii |
| <u>SUMMARY</u> | 1 |
| <u>RISK FACTORS</u> | 3 |
| <u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u> | 6 |
| <u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u> | 6 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF THE 5.125% SENIOR NOTES</u> | 7 |
| <u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u> | 17 |
| <u>LEGAL MATTERS</u> | 17 |
| <u>EXPERTS</u> | 17 |
| <u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u> | 17 |
| <u>DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE</u> | 18 |

You should rely only on the information provided in this prospectus, as well as the information incorporated by reference into this prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer of these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus or any documents incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than the date of the applicable document. Since the respective dates of this prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference, our businesses, financial condition, results of operations and prospects might have changed.

Table of Contents

SPECIAL NOTE ON FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, which we refer to as the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which we refer to as the Exchange Act. Such statements are based upon current expectations that involve risks and uncertainties. Any statements contained herein or in documents incorporated by reference that are not statements of historical fact may be deemed to be forward-looking statements. For example, words such as may, will, should, estimates, predicts, possible, po continue, strategy, believes, anticipates, plans, expects, intends, and similar expressions are intended to id forward-looking statements.

Our actual results and the outcome and timing of certain events may differ significantly from the expectations discussed in the forward-looking statements. Factors that might cause or contribute to such a discrepancy include, but are not limited to, the factors set forth below and may impact either or both of our operating segments:

market conditions, including trading volume and volatility, potential deterioration of equity and debt capital markets and markets for commercial real estate and related services, and our ability to access the capital markets;

pricing, commissions and fees, and market position with respect to our products and services and those of our competitors;

the effect of industry concentration and reorganization, reduction of customers, and consolidation;

liquidity, regulatory, and clearing capital requirements and the impact of credit market events;

our relationships and transactions with Cantor Fitzgerald, L.P. and its affiliates, which we refer to as Cantor, including CF&Co., and Cantor Commercial Real Estate Company, L.P., which we refer to as CCRE, any related conflicts of interest, any impact of Cantor's results on our credit ratings and associated outlooks, any loans to or from us or Cantor, our acquisition of Berkeley Point (defined below) from and our investment in the Real Estate LP (defined below) with CCRE, CF&Co's acting as our sales agent or underwriter under our controlled equity or other offerings, Cantor's holdings of our debt securities, CF&Co's acting as a market maker in our debt securities, CF&Co's acting as our financial advisor in connection with potential business combinations, dispositions, or other transactions, our participation in various investments, stock loans or cash management vehicles placed by or recommended by CF&Co, and any services provided by or to or other arrangements with CCRE;

economic or geopolitical conditions or uncertainties, the actions of governments or central banks, including uncertainty regarding the U.K. exit from the European Union following the referendum and related rulings, and the impact of terrorist acts, acts of war or other violence or political unrest, as well as natural disasters or weather-related or similar events, including power failures, communication and transportation disruptions,

and other interruptions of utilities or other essential services;

the effect on our businesses, our clients, the markets in which we operate, and the economy in general of possible shutdowns of the U.S. government, sequestrations, uncertainties regarding the debt ceiling and the federal budget, and other potential political impasses, as well as the economic and market response to the Republican party control of both the U.S. Presidency and Congress;

the effect on our businesses of worldwide governmental debt issuances, austerity programs, increases or decreases in deficits, and other changes to monetary policy, and potential political impasses or regulatory requirements, including increased capital requirements for banks and other institutions or changes in legislation, regulations and priorities;

extensive regulation of our businesses and customers, changes in regulations relating to financial services companies, commercial real estate and other industries, and risks relating to compliance matters, including regulatory examinations, inspections, investigations and enforcement actions, and any resulting costs, increased financial and capital requirements, enhanced oversight, fines, penalties, sanctions, and changes to or restrictions or limitations on specific activities, operations, compensatory arrangements, and growth opportunities, including acquisitions, hiring, and new businesses, products, or services;

factors related to specific transactions or series of transactions, including credit, performance, and principal risk, trade failures, counterparty failures, and the impact of fraud and unauthorized trading;

Table of Contents

costs and expenses of developing, maintaining, and protecting our intellectual property, as well as employment and other litigation and their related costs, including judgments or settlements paid or received and the impact thereof on our financial results and cash flows in any given period;

certain financial risks, including the possibility of future losses, reduced cash flows from operations, increased leverage and the need for short- or long-term borrowings, including from Cantor, or other sources of cash relating to acquisitions, dispositions, or other matters, potential liquidity and other risks relating to our ability to obtain financing or refinancing of existing debt on terms acceptable to us, if at all, and risks of the resulting leverage, including potentially causing a reduction in our credit ratings and the associated outlooks and increased borrowing costs, including as a result of the Berkeley Point acquisition, as well as interest rate and foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations;

risks associated with the temporary or longer-term investment of our available cash, including defaults or impairments on our investments, stock loans or cash management vehicles and collectability of loan balances owed to us by partners, employees, or others;

our ability to enter new markets or develop new products, trading desks, marketplaces, or services for existing or new customers and to induce such customers to use these products, trading desks, marketplaces, or services and to secure and maintain market share;

our ability to enter into marketing and strategic alliances and business combinations or other transactions in the financial services, real estate, and other industries, including acquisitions, tender offers, dispositions, reorganizations, partnering opportunities and joint ventures, and our ability to maintain or develop relationships with independently owned offices in our Real Estate Services business and our ability to grow in other geographic regions, including the Berkeley Point acquisition and the proposed separation, IPO and distribution of shares related to our Real Estate Services business, the anticipated benefits of any such transactions, relationships or growth and the future impact of any such transactions, relationships or growth on our other businesses and our financial results for current or future periods, the integration of any completed acquisitions and the use of proceeds of any completed dispositions, and the value of and any hedging entered into in connection with consideration received or to be received in connection with such dispositions;

our estimates or determinations of potential value with respect to various assets or portions of our businesses, including with respect to the accuracy of the assumptions or the valuation models or multiples used;

our ability to hire and retain personnel, including brokers, salespeople, managers, and other professionals;

our ability to expand the use of technology for hybrid and fully electronic trading in our product and service offerings;

our ability to effectively manage any growth that may be achieved, while ensuring compliance with all applicable financial reporting, internal control, legal compliance, and regulatory requirements;

our ability to identify and remediate any material weaknesses in our internal controls that could affect our ability to prepare financial statements and reports in a timely manner, control our policies, practices and procedures, operations and assets, assess and manage our operational, regulatory and financial risks, and integrate our acquired businesses and brokers, salespeople, managers and other professionals;

the effectiveness of our risk management policies and procedures, and the impact of unexpected market moves and similar events; and

information technology risks, including capacity constraints, failures, or disruptions in our systems or those of the clients, counterparties, exchanges, clearing facilities, or other parties with which we interact, including cybersecurity risks and incidents and regulatory focus.

The foregoing risks and uncertainties, as well as those risks and uncertainties referred to under the heading Risk Factors and those incorporated by reference herein, may cause actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements. The information included or incorporated by reference is given as of the respective dates of this prospectus or the documents incorporated by reference, and future events or circumstances could differ significantly from such information. We do not undertake to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

*This summary highlights information contained elsewhere or incorporated by reference into this prospectus. This summary may not contain all of the information that is important to you, and it is qualified in its entirety by the more detailed information and financial statements, including the notes to those financial statements, appearing elsewhere or incorporated by reference. Please see the sections titled *Where You Can Find More Information* and *Documents Incorporated by Reference*. Before making an investment decision, we encourage you to consider the information contained in and incorporated by reference, including the risks discussed under the heading *Risk Factors* beginning on page 3 of this prospectus and in Item 1A of Part I of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016 and Item 1A of Part II of our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2017 and June 30, 2017, and any updates to those risk factors or new risk factors included in subsequent reports, all of which are incorporated by reference herein.*

The Company

BGC Partners, Inc., which together with its subsidiaries, we refer to as BGC Partners, BGC, the Company, we, us, our, is a leading global brokerage company servicing the financial and real estate markets through our two segments, Financial Services and Real Estate Services. Through our financial service brands, including BGC, GFI, Sunrise, Besso, and R.P. Martin, among others, our Financial Services business specializes in the brokerage of a broad range of products, including fixed income (rates and credit), foreign exchange, equities, energy and commodities, insurance, and futures. Our Financial Services business also provides a wide range of services, including trade execution, broker-dealer services, clearing, trade compression, post-trade, information, and other back-office services to a broad range of financial and non-financial institutions. Our integrated platform is designed to provide flexibility to customers with regard to price discovery, execution and processing of transactions, and enables them to use voice, hybrid, or in many markets, fully electronic brokerage services in connection with transactions executed either over-the-counter or through an exchange. Through our electronic brands including FENICS, BGC Trader, FENICS Market Data, Capitalab and Lucera, we offer fully electronic brokerage, financial technology solutions, market data, post-trade services and analytics related to financial instruments and markets.

Newmark Knight Frank, which we refer to as Newmark or NKF (formerly known as Newmark Grubb Knight Frank or NGKF), is our leading commercial real estate services business. NKF operates through brands including Newmark Knight Frank, Newmark Cornish & Carey, ARA, Computerized Facility Integration, NKF Valuation & Advisory, and Excess Space. Under these names and others, Newmark provides a wide range of commercial real estate services, including leasing and corporate advisory, investment sales and financial services, consulting, project and development management, and property and facilities management.

Our customers include many of the world's largest banks, broker-dealers, investment banks, trading firms, hedge funds, governments, corporations, property owners, real estate developers, and investment firms. We have more than 100 offices globally in major markets including New York and London, as well as in Atlanta, Beijing, Bogotá, Boston, Buenos Aires, Charlotte, Chicago, Copenhagen, Dallas, Denver, Dubai, Dublin, Geneva, Hong Kong, Houston, Istanbul, Johannesburg, Los Angeles, Madrid, Mexico City, Miami, Moscow, Nyon, Paris, Philadelphia, Rio de Janeiro, San Francisco, Santa Clara, Santiago, São Paulo, Seoul, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, Tel Aviv, Tokyo, Toronto, and Washington, D.C.

BGC, BGC Trader, GFI, FENICS, FENICS.COM, Capitalab, Swaptioniser, ColleX, Newmark, Grubb & Ellis, ARA, Computerized Facility Integration, Landauer, Lucera, Excess Space, Excess Space Retail Services, Inc., and Grubb are trademarks/service marks, and/or registered trademarks/service marks of BGC Partners, Inc. and/or its affiliates. Knight Frank is a service mark of Knight Frank (Nominees) Limited.

Berkeley Point Acquisition and Related Transactions

On July 18, 2017, we announced that we have agreed to acquire Berkeley Point Financial LLC and its subsidiary, which we refer to as Berkeley Point, from an affiliate of Cantor. Berkeley Point is a leading commercial real estate finance company focused on the origination and sale of multifamily and other commercial real estate loans through government-sponsored and government-funded loan programs, as well as the servicing of commercial real estate loans, including those it originates. Berkeley Point was acquired by an affiliate of Cantor on April 10, 2014. Our Board of Directors, upon the unanimous recommendation of a Special Committee of the Board consisting of all four of our independent directors, assisted by independent advisors, unanimously approved our acquisition of Berkeley Point and the related transactions. The total consideration for the acquisition of Berkeley Point is \$875 million, subject to certain adjustments at closing. We believe that the addition of Berkeley Point will significantly increase the scale and scope of Newmark, our Real Estate Services business, as well as substantially improve upon its already strong financial performance.

Contemporaneously with the proposed acquisition of Berkeley Point, we will invest \$100 million in cash for approximately 27% of the capital in a commercial real estate-related finance and investment business, which we refer to as the Real Estate LP, along with Cantor, which we refer to as the BGC Investment. Cantor will control the Real Estate LP and will contribute approximately \$267 million of cash and non-cash assets for approximately 73% of Real Estate LP's capital. The Real Estate LP will be structured as

Table of Contents

a limited partnership, is expected to collaborate with Cantor's significant existing commercial real estate finance business, and may conduct activities in any real estate-related business. Under the terms of the Real Estate LP, Cantor has agreed to bear initial net losses of the partnership, if any, up to an aggregate amount of approximately \$37 million per year. The Company will be entitled to a cumulative annual preferred return of 5 percent of its capital account balance and a profit participation thereafter.

We expect to fund the Berkeley Point acquisition and the BGC Investment through a combination of a bond issuance, term loan, or other debt financing arrangements, as well as from other financing sources and cash on hand. We intend to remain investment-grade following the completion of these transactions. After the transactions are completed, Berkeley Point and the BGC Investment will become part of Newmark.

The obligations of the parties to complete the Berkeley Point and BGC Investment transactions are subject to customary closing conditions, including the receipt of certain consents or non-objections from certain government-sponsored enterprises and government agencies. The transactions are expected to close during 2017. The transaction agreement includes customary representations, warranties and covenants, including covenants related to the operation of Berkeley Point by Cantor during the period prior to the closing and covenants related to inter-company referral arrangements among the Company, Cantor and their respective subsidiaries. These referral arrangements provide for profit-sharing and fee-sharing arrangements at various rates depending on the nature of a particular referral. The parties have further agreed that, so long as BGC or one of its subsidiaries maintains the BGC Investment in the Real Estate LP, the Real Estate LP and Cantor will seek certain government-sponsored and government-funded loan financing exclusively through Berkeley Point whenever possible.

The Berkeley Point acquisition has been determined to be a combination of entities under common control that will result in a change in our reporting entity. Accordingly, our financial results will be retrospectively adjusted once the transaction is closed to include the financial results of Berkeley Point as if it had always been consolidated.

Confidential Submission of Draft Registration Statement for Proposed Initial Public Offering

On February 9, 2017, we announced that we had confidentially submitted a draft registration statement on Form S-1 with the SEC relating to the proposed initial public offering of the Class A common stock of a newly formed subsidiary that will hold our Real Estate Services business, which operates as Newmark Knight Frank or NKF.

The number of Class A shares to be offered and the price range for the proposed initial public offering have not yet been determined. The initial public offering is part of our plan to separate our Real Estate Services business into a separate public company. Following some period after the expected offering, we may, subject to market and other conditions, distribute the shares that we will hold of the newly public subsidiary pro rata to our stockholders in a manner intended to qualify as tax-free for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Our Organizational Structure

We are a holding company, and our businesses are operated through two operating partnerships, BGC Partners, L.P., which holds our U.S. businesses and which we refer to as BGC U.S., and BGC Global Holdings, L.P., which holds our non-U.S. businesses and which we refer to as BGC Global. The limited partnership interests of the two operating partnerships are held by us and BGC Holdings L.P., which we refer to as BGC Holdings, and the limited partnership interests of BGC Holdings are currently held by limited partnership unit holders, founding partners, and Cantor. We hold the BGC Holdings general partnership interest and the BGC Holdings special voting limited partnership interest, which entitle us to remove and appoint the general partner of BGC Holdings, and serve as the general partner of BGC Holdings, which entitles us to control BGC Holdings. BGC Holdings, in turn, holds the BGC U.S. general partnership

interest and the BGC U.S. special voting limited partnership interest, which entitle the holder thereof to remove and appoint the general partner of BGC U.S., and the BGC Global general partnership interest and the BGC Global special voting limited partnership interest, which entitle the holder thereof to remove and appoint the general partner of BGC Global, and serves as the general partner of BGC U.S. and BGC Global, all of which entitle BGC Holdings (and thereby us) to control each of BGC U.S. and BGC Global. BGC Holdings holds its BGC Global general partnership interest through a company incorporated in the Cayman Islands, BGC Global Holdings GP Limited.

Executive Offices

Our executive offices are located at 499 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10022, while our international headquarters is located at 1 Churchill Place, Canary Wharf, London E14 5RD, United Kingdom. Our telephone number is (212) 610-2200. Our website is located at www.bgcpartners.com, and our e-mail address is info@bgcpartners.com. The information contained on, or that may be accessed through, our website is not part of, and is not incorporated into, this prospectus.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

In addition to the other information included in this prospectus, including the matters addressed under Forward-Looking Statements, you should carefully consider the risk factors that are set forth in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016 and in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2017 and June 30, 2017, and any updates to those risk factors or new risk factors contained in our subsequent Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K, which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus, and the following risks.

The risks and uncertainties discussed below and in the documents referred to above, as well as other matters discussed in this prospectus and in those documents, could materially and adversely affect our businesses, financial condition, liquidity, results of operations, and prospects, and the market price of the notes. Moreover, the risks and uncertainties discussed below and in the foregoing documents are not the only risks and uncertainties that we face, and our businesses, financial condition, liquidity and results of operations and the market price of the notes could be materially adversely affected by other matters that are not known to us or that we currently do not consider to be material risks.

Risks Related to the 5.125% Senior Notes

The 5.125% senior notes are structurally subordinated to the obligations of our subsidiaries and to all secured indebtedness, and this may limit our ability to satisfy our obligations under the notes.

The 5.125% senior notes are our senior unsecured obligations and rank equally with all of our other indebtedness that is not expressly subordinated to the notes. The 5.125% senior notes are structurally subordinated to the obligations of our subsidiaries and to all of our secured indebtedness to the extent of the value of the collateral securing such indebtedness. As of June 30, 2017, we had outstanding approximately \$1.1 billion principal amount of senior indebtedness (exclusive of inter-company debt, trade payables, distributions payable and accrued expenses), including approximately \$287.4 million of indebtedness owed or guaranteed by one or more of our subsidiaries, approximately \$42.6 million of which was secured. In addition, as of June 30, 2017, our subsidiaries had outstanding approximately \$2.8 billion of other liabilities (exclusive of the approximately \$287.4 million of indebtedness).

We conduct substantially all of our operations through our operating subsidiaries. We do not have any material assets other than our direct and indirect ownership in the equity of our operating subsidiaries. As a result, our cash flow and our ability to service our debt, including the 5.125% senior notes, are dependent upon the earnings of our subsidiaries. In addition, we are dependent on the distribution of earnings, loans or other payments by our subsidiaries to us. Certain regulatory requirements and debt and security agreements entered into by our subsidiaries contain various restrictions, including restrictions on payments by our subsidiaries to us and the transfer by our subsidiaries of assets pledged as collateral. In the event of a bankruptcy, liquidation, dissolution, reorganization or similar proceeding with respect to any of our subsidiaries, we, as an equity owner of such subsidiary, and therefore holders of our debt, including the notes, will be subject to the prior claims of such subsidiary's creditors, including trade creditors, and any preferred equity holders.

In the event of a bankruptcy, liquidation, dissolution, reorganization or similar proceeding with respect to us, the holders of any secured indebtedness will be entitled to proceed directly against the collateral that secures such secured indebtedness. Therefore, such collateral will not be available for satisfaction of any amounts owed under our unsecured indebtedness, including the notes, until such secured indebtedness is satisfied in full.

There are limited covenants and protections in the indenture for the 5.125% senior notes.

While the indenture governing the 5.125% senior notes contain terms intended to provide protection to holders upon the occurrence of certain events involving significant corporate transactions, these terms are limited and may not be sufficient to protect an investment in the notes. For example, there are no financial covenants in the indenture. As a result, we are not restricted under the terms of the notes from entering into transactions that could increase the total amount of our outstanding indebtedness, adversely affect our capital structure or our credit ratings or associated outlooks, or otherwise adversely affect the holders of the notes.

As described under Description of 5.125% Senior Notes Offer to Repurchase Upon a Change of Control Triggering Event, upon the occurrence of a Change of Control Triggering Event, holders are entitled to require us to repurchase their 5.125% senior notes at 101% of their principal amount. However, the definition of the term Change of Control Triggering Event is limited and does not cover a variety of transactions (such as acquisitions by us, recapitalizations or going private transactions by our affiliates) that could negatively affect the value of the notes. A change of control transaction under the indenture may only occur if there is a change in the controlling interest in us. For a Change of Control Triggering Event to occur there must be not only a change

Table of Contents

of control transaction as defined in the indenture governing the notes, but also a ratings downgrade resulting from such transaction. If we were to enter into a significant corporate transaction that negatively affects the value of the notes, but would not constitute a Change of Control Triggering Event, holders would not have any rights to require us to repurchase the notes prior to their maturity, which also would adversely affect their investment.

Ratings of the 5.125% senior notes may not reflect all risks of an investment in the 5.125% senior notes, and changes in our credit ratings or associated outlooks could adversely affect the market price of the notes.

Our long-term debt is currently rated by nationally recognized statistical rating organizations. A debt rating is not a recommendation to purchase, sell or hold the 5.125% senior notes. Moreover, a debt rating does not reflect all risks of an investment in the notes and does not take into account market price or suitability for a particular investor.

The market price for the notes is based on a number of factors, including our ratings and associated outlooks with major rating agencies. Rating agencies revise their ratings and associated outlooks for the companies that they follow from time to time, and our ratings and associated outlooks may be revised or withdrawn in their entirety at any time. We cannot be sure that rating agencies will maintain their current ratings and associated outlooks. We undertake no obligation to maintain the ratings and associated outlooks or to advise holders of the notes of any change in ratings or associated outlooks. A negative change in our ratings or associated outlooks could have an adverse effect on the market price or liquidity of the notes.

Changes in the credit markets could adversely affect the market price of the 5.125% senior notes.

The market price for the 5.125% senior notes is based on a number of factors, including:

the prevailing interest rates being paid by other companies similar to us; and

the overall condition of the financial markets.

The condition of the credit markets and prevailing interest rates have fluctuated in the past and can be expected to fluctuate in the future. Fluctuations in these factors could have an adverse effect on the price and liquidity of the 5.125% senior notes.

There may not be an active trading market for the 5.125% senior notes, which could adversely affect the price of the notes in the secondary market and your ability to resell the notes should you desire to do so.

We do not intend to apply for listing of the 5.125% senior notes on any securities exchange, and there may not be an active trading market for the notes.

We cannot make any assurance as to:

the existence of an active trading market for the 5.125% senior notes;

the liquidity of any trading market that may exist;

the ability of holders to sell their notes; or

the price at which the holders would be able to sell their notes.

Neither CF&Co., nor any of our other affiliates, has any obligation to make a market in our 5.125% senior notes, and CF&Co. or any such other affiliate may discontinue market-making activities at any time without notice.

The trading market for and the future market price of the 5.125% senior notes will depend on many factors, including prevailing interest rates, our credit ratings and associated outlooks published by the rating agencies that rate our indebtedness, the market for similar securities and our operating performance and financial condition. If an active trading market for the notes does exist, there is no assurance that it will continue. If an active trading market for the notes does not exist or does not continue, the market price and liquidity of the notes are likely to be adversely affected, and notes traded after their purchase may trade at a discount from their purchase price.

We may not be able to repurchase the 5.125% senior notes upon a Change of Control Triggering Event.

Upon the occurrence of a Change of Control Triggering Event (as defined in Description of 5.125% Senior Notes Offer to Repurchase Upon a Change of Control Triggering Event), unless we have exercised our right to redeem the 5.125% senior notes as described under Description of 5.125% Senior Notes Optional Redemption, holders of notes will have the right to require us to

Table of Contents

repurchase all or any part of their notes at a price in cash equal to 101% of the then-outstanding aggregate principal amount of the notes repurchased plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on the notes repurchased, to, but excluding, the date of purchase. If we experience a Change of Control Triggering Event, we can offer no assurance that we would have sufficient financial resources available to satisfy our obligations to repurchase any or all of the notes should any holder elect to cause us to do so. Our failure to repurchase the notes as required would result in a default under the indenture, which in turn could result in defaults under agreements governing certain of our other indebtedness, including the acceleration of the payment of any borrowings thereunder, and have material adverse consequences for us and the holders of the notes.

Table of Contents**USE OF PROCEEDS**

We will not receive any of the proceeds from the market-making activities in our 5.125% senior notes by CF&Co. (or any of our other affiliates) pursuant to this prospectus.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table presents the ratio of earnings to fixed charges for us and our consolidated subsidiaries for each of the periods indicated, including GFI beginning on February 27, 2015.

The table does not reflect any debt that may be incurred or other actions that may be taken in connection with the Berkeley Point acquisition and BGC Investment or the proposed separation, IPO and distribution of our Real Estate Services business.

For the purposes of calculating the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, earnings consist of income from operations before income taxes and fixed charges, net. Fixed charges consist of interest expense incurred on all indebtedness, amortized premiums, discounts and capitalized expenses relating to indebtedness and interest within rental expense. Neither we nor any of our consolidated subsidiaries had any preferred shares outstanding for any of the periods reflected in this table.

| | Six Months Ended | | Year Ended December 31, | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | June 30, 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
| | (dollars in thousands) | | | | | |
| Earnings: | | | | | | |
| Income from operations before income taxes (1) | \$ 74,412 | \$ 184,717 | \$ 378,014 | \$ (5,793) | \$ 269,538 | \$ 67,512 |
| Add: Fixed charges, net | 31,497 | 57,637 | 69,359 | 37,949 | 39,932 | 36,385 |
| Income from operations before income taxes and fixed charges, net | \$ 103,909 | \$ 242,354 | \$ 447,373 | \$ 32,156 | \$ 309,470 | \$ 103,897 |
| Fixed charges: | | | | | | |
| Total interest expense | \$ 30,297 | \$ 52,501 | \$ 62,607 | \$ 32,297 | \$ 32,411 | \$ 29,419 |
| Amortized premiums, discounts and capitalized expenses related to indebtedness | 1,200 | 5,136 | 6,752 | 5,648 | 5,921 | 5,466 |
| Interest within rental expense | | | | 4 | 1,600 | 1,500 |
| Total fixed charges | \$ 31,497 | \$ 57,637 | \$ 69,359 | \$ 37,949 | \$ 39,932 | \$ 36,385 |
| Ratio of earnings to fixed charges | 3.3 | 4.2 | 6.5 | 0.8 | 7.7 | 2.9 |

(1) Income from operations before income taxes does not include gains or losses from equity investees.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF THE 5.125% SENIOR NOTES

We issued the 5.125% senior notes under a base indenture, as supplemented by a supplemental indenture (which we refer to collectively as the indenture governing the 5.125% senior notes), that we, as issuer, entered into with U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee, and that have been filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. The statements made in this section relating to the 5.125% senior notes are summaries of the material provisions thereof and do not purport to be complete and are subject to, and are qualified in their entirety by reference to, all of the provisions of the 5.125% senior notes, such indenture and such supplemental indenture, including the definitions therein of certain terms. You should read these documents carefully to fully understand the terms of the 5.125% senior notes because they, and not this description, will define your rights as holders of the 5.125% senior notes.

Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings given to them in the notes or the indenture, as applicable. In this description, the terms the Company, we, us and our refer only to BGC Partners, Inc. and not to any of its subsidiaries.

The registered holder of a note will be treated as the owner of it for all purposes. Only registered holders will have rights under the indenture.

General

The 5.125% senior notes are our senior unsecured obligations and rank equally in right of payment with all of our other senior unsecured indebtedness from time to time outstanding. The 5.125% senior notes will mature on May 27, 2021, unless previously redeemed or repurchased in full by us as provided below under **Optional Redemption** or **Offer to Repurchase Upon a Change of Control Triggering Event**.

The 5.125% senior notes bear interest at the rate of 5.125% per annum from May 27, 2016, to the stated maturity or date of earlier redemption. Interest on the 5.125% senior notes is payable semi-annually in arrears on each May 27 and November 27, commencing on November 27, 2016, to the persons in whose names such 5.125% senior notes were registered at the close of business on the immediately preceding May 12 and November 12 (whether or not a business day), respectively.

Interest payments in respect of the 5.125% senior notes will equal the amount of interest accrued from and including the immediately preceding interest payment date in respect of which interest has been paid or duly provided for (or from and including the date of issue, if no interest has been paid or duly provided for with respect to the 5.125% senior notes), to, but excluding, the applicable interest payment date or stated maturity date or date of early redemption, as the case may be. Interest on the 5.125% senior notes will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year comprised of twelve 30-day months. The principal and interest (including any additional interest), if any, on the 5.125% senior notes will be payable through The Depository Trust Company, which we refer to as **Depository**, as described under **Same-Day Funds Settlement and Payment**.

If an interest payment date or the stated maturity date or date of early redemption of the 5.125% senior notes falls on a Saturday, Sunday or other day on which banking institutions in The City of New York are authorized or obligated by law or executive order to close, the required payment due on such date will instead be made on the next business day. No further interest will accrue as a result of such delayed payment.

We issued the 5.125% senior notes initially in an aggregate principal amount of \$300.0 million. The indenture does not limit the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities which we may issue thereunder and provides that we

may issue debt securities thereunder from time to time in one or more series. We may, from time to time, without the consent of or notice to holders of the 5.125% senior notes, issue and sell additional debt securities ranking equally and ratably with the 5.125% senior notes in all respects and having the same terms as the 5.125% senior notes (other than the issue date, and to the extent applicable, issue price, initial date of interest accrual and initial interest payment date of such additional debt securities), so that such additional debt securities shall be consolidated and form a single series with the 5.125% senior notes for all purposes, including voting; provided, that such additional debt securities are fungible with the previously issued 5.125% senior notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

We have agreed in the indenture to use the net proceeds from the initial offering of the 5.125% senior notes (after deducting the initial purchasers' discount and expenses paid by us in connection with such offering of the notes) to make loans to our subsidiaries pursuant to one or more promissory notes. So long as the 5.125% senior notes are outstanding, (1) the aggregate principal amount of all such promissory 5.125% senior notes shall be not less than the amount of the net proceeds from the offering of the 5.125% senior notes (or if less, the aggregate principal amount of 5.125% senior notes then outstanding), (2) such promissory 5.125% senior notes shall bear interest at rates that shall not be less than that borne by the 5.125% senior notes and (3) such promissory 5.125% senior notes shall have terms not later than the stated maturity date of the notes; provided, that any transfer of such obligation

Table of Contents

from one subsidiary to another or any refinancing of any such obligation by another subsidiary shall be permitted from time to time. We further agreed that for so long as the 5.125% senior notes remain outstanding, any indebtedness for borrowed money we incur after the date of original issuance of the 5.125% senior notes in one transaction, or in a series of related transactions, that is in excess of \$25.0 million will be subject to a similar covenant.

The 5.125% senior notes have been issued only in fully registered form without coupons in minimum denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof. The 5.125% senior notes may be presented for transfer (duly endorsed or accompanied by a written instrument of transfer, if so required by us or the security registrar) or exchanged for other 5.125% senior notes (containing identical terms and provisions, in any authorized denominations, and of a like aggregate principal amount) at the office or agency maintained by us for such purposes (initially the corporate trust office of the Trustee). Such transfer or exchange will be made without service charge, but we may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge and any other expenses then payable. Prior to the due presentment of a note for registration of transfer, we, the Trustee and any other agent of ours or the Trustee may treat the registered holder of each note as the owner of such note for the purpose of receiving payments of principal of and interest on such note and for all other purposes whatsoever.

The indenture does not contain any provisions that would limit our ability to incur unsecured indebtedness or that would afford holders of the 5.125% senior notes protection in the event of a sudden and significant decline in our credit quality or a takeover, recapitalization or highly leveraged or similar transaction involving us. Accordingly, we could in the future enter into transactions that could increase the amount of indebtedness outstanding at that time or otherwise affect our capital structure or credit rating.

The 5.125% senior notes are not be entitled to the benefit of any mandatory redemption or sinking fund.

Optional Redemption

At any time and from time to time, we will be entitled at our option to redeem the notes, in whole or in part, at a redemption price equal to the greater of (i) 100% of the aggregate principal amount of the 5.125% senior notes to be redeemed and (ii) the sum of the present values of the Remaining Scheduled Payments (as defined below), plus, in each case, accrued and unpaid interest thereon to, but excluding, the redemption date, subject to the rights of holders of the 5.125% senior notes to be redeemed on the relevant record date to receive interest due on the relevant interest payment date.

In determining the present values of the Remaining Scheduled Payments, we will discount such payments to the redemption date on a semi-annual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) using a discount rate equal to the Treasury Rate plus 50 basis points.

The following terms are relevant to the determination of the redemption price:

Comparable Treasury Issue means the United States Treasury security selected by an Independent Investment Banker as having an actual or interpolated maturity comparable to the remaining term of the 5.125% senior notes to be redeemed that would be utilized, at the time of selection and in accordance with customary financial practice, in pricing new issues of corporate debt securities of comparable maturity to the remaining term of such notes.

Comparable Treasury Price means, with respect to any redemption date, (1) the arithmetic average of the applicable Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations for such redemption date after excluding the highest and lowest Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, (2) if the Company obtains fewer than four applicable Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, the arithmetic average of all applicable Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations for such redemption date or

(3) if only one Reference Treasury Dealer Quotation is received, such quotation.

Independent Investment Banker means one of the Reference Treasury Dealers, or their respective successors, as may be appointed from time to time by the Company; provided, however, that if the foregoing ceases to be a primary U.S. Government securities dealer in the United States (a primary treasury dealer), we will substitute another primary treasury dealer.

Reference Treasury Dealer means Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated and three other primary treasury dealers selected by the Company, and each of their respective successors and any other primary treasury dealers selected by the Company.

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

Table of Contents

Remaining Scheduled Payments means, with respect to any note to be redeemed, the remaining scheduled payments of the principal thereof and interest thereon that would be due after the related redemption date but for such redemption; provided, however, that, if such redemption date is not an interest payment date with respect to such note, the amount of the next scheduled interest payment thereon will be reduced by the amount of interest accrued thereon to such redemption date.

Treasury Rate means, with respect to any redemption date, the rate per annum equal to the semi-annual equivalent yield to maturity (computed as of the third business day immediately preceding that redemption date) of the applicable Comparable Treasury Issue. In determining this rate, the Company will assume a price for the applicable Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed as a percentage of its principal amount) equal to the applicable Comparable Treasury Price for such redemption date.

Offer to Repurchase Upon a Change of Control Triggering Event

If a Change of Control Triggering Event occurs, unless we have exercised our right to redeem the 5.125% senior notes as described above, holders of 5.125% senior notes will have the right to require us to repurchase all or any part (in minimum original principal amounts of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof) of their 5.125% senior notes pursuant to the offer described below (the **Change of Control Offer**) on the terms set forth in the notes. In the Change of Control Offer, we will be required to offer payment in cash equal to 101% of the then outstanding aggregate principal amount of 5.125% senior notes repurchased plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on the 5.125% senior notes repurchased, to, but not including, the date of purchase (the **Change of Control Payment**). Within 30 days following any Change of Control Triggering Event, we will be required to mail a notice to holders of 5.125% senior notes (with a copy to the Trustee) describing the transaction or transactions that constitute the Change of Control Triggering Event and offering to repurchase the 5.125% senior notes on the date specified in the notice, which date will be no earlier than 30 days and no later than 60 days from the date such notice is mailed (the **Change of Control Payment Date**), pursuant to the procedures required by the 5.125% senior notes and the indenture and described in such notice. We must comply with the requirements of Rule 14e-1 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the *Exchange Act*), and any other securities laws and regulations thereunder to the extent those laws and regulations are applicable in connection with the repurchase of the 5.125% senior notes as a result of a Change of Control Triggering Event. To the extent that the provisions of any securities laws or regulations conflict with the Change of Control Triggering Event provisions of the 5.125% senior notes, we will be required to comply with the applicable securities laws and regulations and will not be deemed to have breached our obligations under the Change of Control Triggering Event provisions of the 5.125% senior notes by virtue of such conflicts.

On the Change of Control Payment Date, we will be required, to the extent lawful, to:

accept for payment all 5.125% senior notes or portions thereof validly tendered pursuant to the Change of Control Offer;

deposit with the Trustee an amount equal to the Change of Control Payment in respect of all 5.125% senior notes or portions of 5.125% senior notes validly tendered; and

deliver or cause to be delivered to the Trustee the 5.125% senior notes properly accepted together with a certificate executed by us, stating the aggregate principal amount of 5.125% senior notes or portions of

5.125% senior notes being purchased.

We will not be required to make a Change of Control Offer upon the occurrence of a Change of Control Triggering Event if a third party makes such an offer in the manner, at the times and otherwise in compliance with the requirements for a Change of Control Offer made by us and the third party repurchases all 5.125% senior notes validly tendered and not withdrawn under its offer. In addition, we will not repurchase any 5.125% senior notes if there has occurred and is continuing on the Change of Control Payment Date an event of default under the indenture, other than a default in the payment of the Change of Control Payment upon a Change of Control Triggering Event.

The change of control feature of the 5.125% senior notes may in certain circumstances make more difficult or discourage a sale or takeover of us and, thus, the removal of incumbent management. We could, in the future, enter into certain transactions, including acquisitions, refinancings or other recapitalizations, that would not constitute a Change of Control under the 5.125% senior notes, but that could increase the amount of our indebtedness outstanding at such time or otherwise affect our capital structure or credit ratings on the notes.

For purposes of the foregoing discussion of a repurchase at the option of holders, the following definitions are applicable:

Below Investment Grade Rating Event means that both Rating Agencies (as defined below) shall have ceased to rate the 5.125% senior notes at an Investment Grade Rating on any date during the period (the **Trigger Period**) commencing 60 days prior to

Table of Contents

the first public announcement by the Company of any Change of Control (or pending Change of Control) and ending 60 days following consummation of such Change of Control (which Trigger Period will be extended following consummation of a Change of Control for so long as either of the Rating Agencies has publicly announced that it is considering a possible ratings change). If a Rating Agency is not providing a rating for the 5.125% senior notes at the commencement of any Trigger Period, the 5.125% senior notes will be deemed to have ceased to be rated an Investment Grade Rating by such Rating Agency during that Trigger Period.

A Change of Control will be deemed to have occurred at such time after the original issuance of the 5.125% senior notes when any of the following has occurred:

(1) a person or group within the meaning of Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act other than us, our subsidiaries, our and their respective employee benefit plans and any Permitted Holder, has become the direct or indirect beneficial owner, as defined in Rule 13d-3 under the Exchange Act, of our capital stock representing, in the aggregate, more than 50% of the voting power of all classes of our capital stock; or

(2) one or more Permitted Holders shall cease to (i) own and control, beneficially, capital stock of ours that possesses the voting power under normal circumstances to cast 50% or more of the total votes entitled to be cast for the election of directors of ours; or (ii) have the voting power or the contractual right to elect a majority of our directors; or

(3) our liquidation or dissolution or the stockholders of the Company approve any plan or proposal for our liquidation or dissolution; or

(4) any conveyance, transfer, sale, lease or other disposition of all or substantially all of the properties and assets of ours to another person, other than:

any transaction:

(i) that does not result in any reclassification, conversion, exchange or cancellation of our outstanding equity interests; or

(ii) pursuant to which holders of our outstanding equity interests, immediately prior to the transaction, have the entitlement to exercise, directly or indirectly, 50% or more of the total voting power of all equity interests entitled to vote generally in elections of directors or managers of the continuing or surviving or successor entity immediately after giving effect to such issuance; or

any transfer of assets or similar transaction solely for the purpose of changing our jurisdiction of organization and resulting in a reclassification, conversion or exchange of our outstanding equity interests, if at all, solely into outstanding equity interests of the surviving entity or a direct or indirect parent of the surviving entity; or

any conveyance, transfer, sale, lease or other disposition with or into any of our subsidiaries, so long as such conveyance, transfer, sale, lease or other disposition is not part of a plan or a series of transactions designed to or having the effect of merging or consolidating with, or conveying, transferring, selling, leasing or disposing all or substantially all our properties and assets to, any other person.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, no Change of Control will be deemed to have occurred in the event any successor issuer of the 5.125% senior notes shall be a corporation so long as one or more Permitted Holders shall maintain the beneficial ownership of shares of the capital stock of such successor possessing the voting power under normal circumstances to elect, or one or more Permitted Holders shall have the contractual right to elect, a majority of the directors of such successor corporation. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a transaction will not be deemed to result in a Change of Control if (a) Cantor Fitzgerald, L.P. becomes a wholly owned subsidiary of a holding company and (b) the holders of the voting capital stock of such holding company immediately following that transaction are substantially the same as the holders of Cantor Fitzgerald, L.P.'s voting partnership interests immediately prior to that transaction.

Change of Control Triggering Event means the occurrence of both a Change of Control and a Below Investment Grade Rating Event.

Fitch means Fitch Ratings.

Table of Contents

Investment Grade Rating means a rating equal to or higher than BBB- (or the equivalent) by Fitch or BBB- (or the equivalent) by S&P.

Permitted Holder means Howard W. Lutnick, any Person controlled by him or any trust established for Mr. Lutnick's benefit or for the benefit of his spouse, any of his descendants or any of his relatives, in each case, so long as he is alive and, upon his death or incapacity, any person who shall, as a result of Mr. Lutnick's death or incapacity, become a beneficial owner (as defined in Rule 13d-3 under the Exchange Act) of the Company's capital stock by operation of a trust, by will or the laws of descent and distribution or by operation of law.

Person means an individual, a corporation, a limited liability company, an association, a partnership, a joint venture, a joint stock company, a trust, an unincorporated organization or a government or agency or political subdivision thereof.

Rating Agencies means (1) each of Fitch and S&P; and (2) if either of Fitch or S&P ceases to rate the 5.125% senior notes or fails to make a rating of the 5.125% senior notes publicly available for reasons outside of our control, a nationally recognized statistical rating organization within the meaning of Section 3(a)(62) of the Exchange Act, selected by us (as certified by a resolution of our Board of Directors) as a replacement agency for Fitch or S&P, or both of them, as the case may be.

S&P means Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

Certain Covenants

Limitations on Liens on Stock of Subsidiaries

Under the indenture, we covenant that, so long as any of the 5.125% senior notes are outstanding, we will not permit any Designated Subsidiary to, create, assume, incur, guarantee or otherwise permit to exist any Indebtedness secured by any mortgage, pledge, lien, security interest or other encumbrance (a lien) upon any shares of capital stock of any Designated Subsidiary directly or indirectly held by us (whether such capital stock is now owned or hereafter acquired) without effectively providing concurrently that the 5.125% senior notes (and, if we so elect, any other Indebtedness of ours that is not subordinate to the 5.125% senior notes and with respect to which the governing instruments of such Indebtedness require, or pursuant to which we are otherwise obligated, to provide such security) will be secured equally and ratably with, or prior to, such Indebtedness for at least the time period such other Indebtedness is so secured. The foregoing will not apply to liens on the securities of any entity existing at the time it becomes a Designated Subsidiary (and any extensions, renewals or replacements thereof).

For purposes of the indenture, **capital stock** of any Person means any and all shares, interests, rights to purchase, warrants, options, participations or other equivalents of or interests in (however designated) equity of such Person, including preferred stock, but excluding any debt securities convertible into such equity.

The term **Designated Subsidiary** means each of (i) BGC Holdings, L.P. (**BGC Holdings**), (ii) BGC Global Holdings, L.P. (**BGC Global**), (iii) BGC Partners, L.P. (**BGC US**), and (iv) any other direct or indirect subsidiary now owned or hereafter acquired by us for which (a) the Net Assets constitute, as of the last day of the most recently ended fiscal quarter, 5% or more of our Total Stockholders' Equity or (b) the net revenues constitute, as of the last day of the most recently ended fiscal quarter, 10% or more of the consolidated net revenues of ours during the most recently ended period of four consecutive fiscal quarters; provided, however, that the following shall not be Designated Subsidiaries:

Edgar Filing: BGC Partners, Inc. - Form S-3ASR

- (1) any Person in which the Company or any of its subsidiaries does not own sufficient equity or voting interests to elect a majority of the directors (or persons performing similar functions);
- (2) any Person whose financial results would not be consolidated with those of the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP); and
- (3) any subsidiary of any Person described in clauses (1) and (2) above.

The term **Indebtedness** means, without duplication, with respect to any Person, whether or not contingent:

- (1) the principal of and any premium and interest on (a) indebtedness of such Person for money borrowed or (b) indebtedness evidenced by notes, debentures, bonds or other similar instruments for the payment of which such Person is responsible or liable;

Table of Contents

- (2) all capitalized lease obligations of such Person;
 - (3) all obligations of such Person incurred or assumed as the deferred purchased price of property, all conditional sale obligations and all obligations under any title retention agreement (but excluding trade accounts payable arising in the ordinary course of business);
 - (4) all obligations of such Person for the reimbursement of any obligor on any banker's acceptance, bank guarantees, surety bonds or similar credit transaction; and
 - (5) any amendments, modifications, refundings, renewals or extensions of any indebtedness or obligation described as Indebtedness in clauses (1) through (4) above;
- if and to the extent any of the preceding items (other than letters of credit) would appear as a liability upon a balance sheet of such Person prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP; provided, however, the term "Indebtedness" includes all of the following items, whether or not any such items would appear as a liability on a balance sheet of such Person prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles:
- (i) all Indebtedness of others secured by any mortgage, pledge, lien, security interest or other encumbrance on any property or asset of such Person (whether or not such Indebtedness is assumed by such Person);
 - (ii) to the extent not otherwise included, any guarantee by such person of Indebtedness of any other Person; and
 - (iii) preferred stock or other equity interests providing for mandatory redemption or sinking fund or similar payments issued by any subsidiary of such Person.

The term "Net Assets" means, with respect to any Person, the excess (if positive) of (a) such Person's consolidated assets over (b) such Person's consolidated liabilities, in each case determined in accordance with U.S. GAAP.

The term "Total Stockholders' Equity" means, as of the date of determination, without duplication, all items which in conformity with U.S. GAAP would be included under total stockholders' equity on our consolidated statement of financial condition. For purposes of any determination of total stockholders' equity, we may include the amount of any capital to be returned pursuant to the terms of the Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of BGC Holdings, as amended from time to time, to any limited or general partner who has been terminated or withdrawn until such time as the amount of such partners' capital has been paid to such limited or general partner pursuant to the terms of such Partnership Agreement plus, without duplication, redeemable partnership interests representing former partner's equity in us. For the avoidance of doubt, Total Stockholders' Equity is inclusive of non-controlling interests in subsidiaries on our consolidated statement of financial condition.

Consolidation, Merger or Sale

We may not consolidate or merge with or into, or transfer or lease all or substantially all of our assets to, any Person unless either (a) we will be the continuing entity or (b) the successor entity or Person to which our assets are transferred or leased is an entity organized under the laws of the United States, any state of the United States or the District of Columbia and it expressly assumes our obligations on the 5.125% senior notes and under the indenture. In addition, we cannot effect such a transaction unless immediately after giving effect to such transaction, no default or event of default under the indenture shall have occurred and be continuing. Subject to certain exceptions, when the Person to whom our assets are transferred or leased has assumed our obligations under the 5.125% senior notes and the indenture, we will be discharged from all our obligations under the 5.125% senior notes and the indenture, except in limited circumstances.

This covenant does not apply to any recapitalization transaction, a change of control of us or a highly leveraged transaction, unless the transaction or change of control were structured to include a merger or consolidation or transfer or lease of all or substantially all of our assets.

Modification, Amendment or Waiver

We may from time to time amend or supplement the indenture and the 5.125% senior notes without the consent of registered holders to, among other things, (i) modify the restrictions on and procedures for resale, attempted resale, and other transfers of the 5.125% senior notes or interests therein to reflect any change in applicable law or regulation (or interpretation thereof) or in practices relating to the resale or transfer of restricted securities generally or (ii) to cure any ambiguity or defect in and to correct or supplement any provision of the indenture or any note that may be inconsistent with any other provision in the indenture or the 5.125% senior notes, provided, however, that any such cure, correction or supplement shall not adversely affect the interests of the holders of the 5.125% senior notes in any material respect.

Table of Contents

With certain exceptions, we may make modifications and amendments of the indenture with the consent of the registered holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the 5.125% senior notes of a series at the time outstanding under the indenture. Compliance with certain covenants may be waived on behalf of registered holders of notes of a series, either generally or in a specific instance and either before or after the time for compliance with those covenants, with the consent of holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the then outstanding 5.125% senior notes of such series. Nevertheless, without the consent of each registered holder of the 5.125% senior notes affected thereby, no such modification or amendment may, among other things, reduce the principal of or interest on any of the outstanding 5.125% senior notes, extend the stated maturity of the 5.125% senior notes, change the interest payment dates or terms of payment for the 5.125% senior notes, or reduce the percentage of registered holders necessary to modify or amend the indenture and the 5.125% senior notes.

Events of Default

Unless otherwise indicated, the term **Event of Default**, when used in the indenture with respect to the 5.125% senior notes means any of the following:

failure to pay interest (including any additional interest) for 30 days after the date payment on any note is due and payable;

failure to pay principal or premium, if any, on any note when due, either at maturity, upon any redemption, by declaration or otherwise;

a default by us in the payment in respect of any Indebtedness for borrowed money, including obligations evidenced by any mortgage, indenture, bond, debenture, note, guarantee or similar instrument, in an aggregate principal amount of at least \$50 million beyond any applicable grace period, or default in the performance or compliance with any term respecting such debt, if as a consequence such debt becomes due and payable before its stated maturity, and such default shall not have been rescinded or annulled or such Indebtedness shall not have been discharged and such default continues for a period of 15 consecutive days after written notice to us by the Trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of the 5.125% senior notes;

failure by us to perform any other covenant in the indenture or the 5.125% senior notes for 90 days after notice that performance was required; or

events related to our bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization or liquidation.

If an Event of Default relating to the payment of interest (including any additional interest) or principal with respect to the 5.125% senior notes has occurred and is continuing, the Trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of the 5.125% senior notes may declare the entire principal of the 5.125% senior notes to be due and payable immediately.

If an Event of Default relating to the performance of other covenants occurs and is continuing, then the Trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of the 5.125% senior notes may declare the entire principal

amount of the 5.125% senior notes to be due and payable immediately.

The holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the 5.125% senior notes may, after satisfying conditions, rescind and annul any of the above-described declarations and consequences.

If an Event of Default relating to events of our bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization or liquidation occurs and is continuing, then the principal amount of the 5.125% senior notes outstanding, and any accrued interest, will automatically become due and payable immediately, without any declaration or other act by the Trustee or any holder.

The indenture imposes limitations on suits brought by holders of 5.125% senior notes against us. Except as provided below, no holder of 5.125% senior notes may institute any action against us under the indenture unless:

the holder has previously given to the Trustee written notice of default and continuance of that default;

the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the 5.125% senior notes have requested in writing that the Trustee institute the action;

Table of Contents

the requesting holders have offered the Trustee security or indemnity satisfactory to it for expenses and liabilities that may be incurred by bringing the action;

the Trustee has not instituted the action within 60 days after the request; and

the Trustee has not received inconsistent direction by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding notes.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, each holder of 5.125% senior notes of any series has the right, which is absolute and unconditional, to receive payment of the principal of, and premium and interest, if any, on, the 5.125% senior notes when due and to institute suit for the enforcement of any such payment, and such rights may not be impaired without the consent of that holder of notes.

We will be required to file annually with the Trustee a certificate, signed by an officer of the Company, stating whether or not the officer knows of any default by us in the performance, observance or fulfillment of any condition or covenant of the indenture.

Discharge, Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance

We can discharge or defease our obligations under the indenture and the 5.125% senior notes as set forth below.

We may discharge our obligations to holders of 5.125% senior notes that have not already been delivered to the Trustee for cancellation and that have become due and payable within one year (or are scheduled for redemption within one year). We may effect a discharge by irrevocably depositing with the Trustee cash or U.S. government obligations, as trust funds, in an amount certified to be sufficient to pay when due, whether at maturity, upon redemption or otherwise, the principal of, and premium, if any, and interest on, the notes.

We may also discharge any and all of our obligations to holders of 5.125% senior notes at any time (legal defeasance). We also may be released from the obligations imposed by any covenants of any outstanding series of debt securities and provisions of the indenture, and we may omit to comply with those covenants without creating an Event of Default (covenant defeasance). We may effect legal defeasance and covenant defeasance only if, among other things:

we irrevocably deposit with the Trustee cash or U.S. government obligations, as trust funds, in an amount certified to be sufficient to pay when due (whether at maturity, upon redemption, or otherwise) the principal of, and premium, if any, and interest on all outstanding 5.125% senior notes; and

we deliver to the Trustee an opinion of counsel from a nationally recognized law firm to the effect that the holders and beneficial owners of the 5.125% senior notes will not recognize income, gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a result of the legal defeasance or covenant defeasance and that legal defeasance or covenant defeasance will not otherwise alter the holders and beneficial owners U.S. federal income tax treatment of principal, premium, if any, and interest payments on the 5.125% senior notes, which opinion, in the case of legal defeasance, must be based on a ruling of the Internal Revenue Service or a change in U.S. federal income tax law issued or pronounced after the date of this prospectus.

Although we may discharge or defease our obligations under the indenture as described in the two preceding paragraphs, we may not avoid, among other things, our duty to register the transfer or exchange of any 5.125% senior notes, to replace any temporary, mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen 5.125% senior notes or to maintain an office or agency in respect of the 5.125% senior notes.

Book-Entry System

The certificates representing the 5.125% senior notes have been issued in the form of one or more fully-registered global 5.125% senior notes without coupons (the Global Note) and have been deposited with, or on behalf of, the Depository and registered in the name of Cede & Co., as the nominee of the Depository. Except in limited circumstances, the 5.125% senior notes are not issuable in definitive form. Unless and until they are exchanged in whole or in part for the individual 5.125% senior notes represented thereby, any interests in the Global Note may not be transferred except as a whole by the Depository to a nominee of the Depository or by a nominee of the Depository to the Depository or another nominee of the Depository or by the Depository or any nominee of the Depository to a successor depository or any nominee of such successor.

Table of Contents

The Depository is under no obligation to provide its services as depository for the certificates of any series and may discontinue providing its services at any time. Neither we nor the Trustee will have any responsibility for the performance by the Depository or its direct or indirect participants under the rules and procedures governing the Depository. As noted above, owners of beneficial interests in the Global Note will not receive certificates representing their interests. However, we will prepare and deliver certificates for the 5.125% senior notes of that series in exchange for beneficial interests in the Global Note if:

the Depository notifies us that it is unwilling or unable to continue as a depository for the Global Note of any series or if the Depository ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act and a successor depository is not appointed by us within 90 days after the notification or of our becoming aware of the Depository's ceasing to be so registered, as the case may be;

we determine, in our sole discretion, not to have the 5.125% senior notes of any series represented by one or more Global Notes; or

an Event of Default has occurred and is continuing with respect to the debt securities of any series, and the Depository wishes to exchange such Global Notes for definitive certificated debt securities.

Any beneficial interest in a Global Note that is exchangeable under the circumstances described in the preceding sentence will be exchangeable for 5.125% senior notes in definitive certificated form registered in the names that the depository shall direct. It is expected that these directions will be based upon directions received by the depository from its participants with respect to ownership of beneficial interests in the Global Note.

The Depository has advised us that the Depository is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a banking organization within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a clearing corporation within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code, and a clearing agency registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Exchange Act. The Depository holds securities that its participants (Direct Participants) deposit with the Depository. The Depository also facilitates the post-trade settlement among Direct Participants of sales and other securities transactions in deposited securities, through electronic computerized book-entry transfers and pledges between Direct Participants' accounts. This eliminates the need for physical movement of securities certificates. Direct Participants include both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations, and certain other organizations. The Depository is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation (DTCC). DTCC is the holding company for the Depository, National Securities Clearing Corporation and Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, all of which are registered clearing agencies. DTCC is owned by the users of its regulated subsidiaries. Access to the Depository system is also available to others such as both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies and clearing corporations that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Direct Participant, either directly or indirectly.

Conveyance of notices and other communications by the Depository to Direct Participants, by Direct Participants to indirect participants and by direct and indirect participants to beneficial owners will be governed by arrangements among them, subject to any legal requirements in effect from time to time.

Redemption notices shall be sent to the Depository or its nominee. If less than all of the 5.125% senior notes of a series are being redeemed, the Depository will reduce the amount of the interest of Direct Participants in such 5.125%

senior notes in accordance with its procedures.

A beneficial owner of 5.125% senior notes shall give written notice to elect to have its 5.125% senior notes repurchased or tendered, through its participant, to the Trustee and shall effect delivery of such 5.125% senior notes by causing the Direct Participant to transfer the participant's interest in such 5.125% senior notes, on the Depository's records, to the Trustee. The requirement for physical delivery of 5.125% senior notes in connection with a repurchase or tender will be deemed satisfied when the ownership rights in such 5.125% senior notes are transferred by Direct Participants on the Depository's records and followed by a book-entry credit of such 5.125% senior notes to the Trustee's Depository account.

In any case where a vote may be required with respect to the 5.125% senior notes of any series, neither the Depository nor Cede & Co. will give consents for or vote such global debt securities. Under its usual procedures, the Depository will mail an omnibus proxy to us as soon as possible after the record date. The omnibus proxy assigns the consenting or voting rights of Cede & Co. to those Direct Participants to whose accounts the 5.125% senior notes are credited on the record date identified in a listing attached to the omnibus proxy.

Principal of and premium, if any, and interest, if any, on the Global Note securities will be paid to Cede & Co., as nominee of the Depository. The Depository's practice is to credit Direct Participants' accounts on the relevant payment date unless the Depository has reason to believe that it will not receive payments on the payment date. Payments by direct and indirect participants to beneficial owners will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with securities held for the account

Table of Contents

of customers in bearer form or registered in street name. Those payments will be the responsibility of participants and not of the Depository or us, subject to any legal requirements in effect from time to time. Payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest, if any, to Cede & Co. is our responsibility, disbursement of payments to Direct Participants is the responsibility of the Depository, and disbursement of payments to the beneficial owners is the responsibility of direct and indirect participants.

The rules applicable to the Depository and its Direct Participants are on file with the SEC. The information in this section concerning the Depository and the Depository's book-entry system has been obtained from sources that we believe to be reliable, but we take no responsibility for the accuracy thereof.

Same-Day Funds Settlement and Payment

All payments of principal, premium if any, and interest in respect of 5.125% senior notes in book-entry form will be made by us in immediately available funds to the accounts specified by the Depository.

Governing Law

The indenture and the 5.125% senior notes are governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York applicable to agreements made or instruments entered into and, in each case, performed in that state.

Concerning the Trustee

U.S. Bank National Association is the Trustee under the indenture with respect to the 5.125% senior notes and also serves as the registrar and paying agent. We maintain corporate trust relationships in the ordinary course of business with the Trustee.

Registration Rights Agreement

Affiliates of Cantor currently hold \$15 million aggregate face amount of the \$300 million outstanding aggregate face amount of the 5.125% senior notes. The notes held by the Cantor affiliates were acquired from us in the initial offering of the notes, and such Cantor affiliates are our affiliates also. Pursuant to a Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of May 27, 2016, by and between us and the other parties named therein, such Cantor affiliates, and their respective transferees, have the right to have us file a resale registration statement to enable them to sell the notes that they hold.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

This prospectus may be used by CF&Co. in connection with offers and sales of the 5.125% senior notes in ongoing market-making transactions in the notes. Market-making transactions may occur in the open market or may be privately negotiated at prevailing market prices at the time of sale or at related or negotiated prices. In these transactions, CF&Co. may act as principal or agent, including as agent for the counterparty in a transaction in which CF&Co. acts as principal, or as agent for both counterparties in a transaction in which CF&Co. does not act as a principal. CF&Co. may receive compensation in the form of discounts and commissions, including from both counterparties in some cases. Other affiliates of ours may also engage in market-making transactions of this kind and may use this prospectus for that purpose. CF&Co., or any of our other affiliates, will conduct these offers and sales in compliance with the requirements of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority.

The 5.125% senior notes held by Cantor affiliates that were acquired from us in the initial offering of the notes will be covered by this market-making prospectus only after they are resold to non-affiliates of Cantor and us pursuant to a resale registration statement, or otherwise become freely tradable in the hands of transferees.

We will not receive any proceeds from these market-making transactions.

Information about the trade and settlement dates, as well as the purchase price, for a market-making transaction will be provided to the purchaser in a separate confirmation of sale.

Neither CF&Co., nor any of our other affiliates, has any obligation to make a market in our 5.125% senior notes, and CF&Co. or any such other affiliate may discontinue market-making activities at any time without notice.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the 5.125% senior notes offered and sold pursuant to this prospectus has been passed upon for us by Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, New York, New York.

EXPERTS

Ernst & Young LLP, our independent registered public accounting firm, has audited the consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedule of BGC Partners, Inc. included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting of BGC Partners, Inc. as of December 31, 2016, as set forth in their reports, which are incorporated by reference herein. Such consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedule of BGC Partners, Inc. are incorporated by reference in reliance on the reports of such firm, given on their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

The audited historical financial statements and financial statement schedule of GFI Group Inc. incorporated in this prospectus by reference to BGC Partners, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K dated March 1, 2017 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document we file at the SEC's Public Reference Room located at One Station Place, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You can also request copies of the documents, upon payment of a duplicating fee, by

Edgar Filing: BGC Partners, Inc. - Form S-3ASR

writing the Public Reference Section of the SEC. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the Public Reference Room. These filings are also available to the public from the SEC's website at www.sec.gov.

Our website address is www.bgcpartners.com. Through our website, we make available, free of charge, the following documents as soon as reasonably practicable after they are electronically filed with, or furnished to, the SEC: our Annual Reports on Form 10-K; our proxy statements for our annual and special stockholder meetings; our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q; our Current Reports on Form 8-K; Forms 3, 4 and 5 and Schedules 13D with respect to our securities filed on behalf of Cantor, our directors and our executive officers; and amendments to those documents. Our website also contains additional information with respect to our industry and businesses. The information contained on, or that may be accessed through, our website is not part of, and is not incorporated into, this prospectus.

Table of Contents

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference into this prospectus the documents that we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus. We incorporate by reference into this prospectus the following documents:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016 filed on February 28, 2017;

our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A for our 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders filed on April 24, 2017;

our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2017 filed on May 10, 2017;

our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2017 filed on August 8, 2017;

our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on January 4, 2017;

our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on February 9, 2017 (other than as indicated therein);

our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on March 1, 2017;

our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on April 13, 2017;

our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on May 4, 2017 (other than as indicated therein);

our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on June 9, 2017;

our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on July 21, 2017 (other than as indicated therein);

our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on July 26, 2017 (other than as indicated therein); and

all documents filed by us with the SEC pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act (Commission File Numbers 0-28191 and 1-35591) after the date of this prospectus and before the

completion of the offering contemplated hereby.

Any statement contained in this prospectus, or in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein, shall be deemed to be modified or superseded to the extent that a statement contained herein, or in any subsequently filed document that also is incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein, modifies or supersedes such statement. Any statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus.

You may obtain copies of these documents, at no cost to you, from our website (www.bgcpartners.com), or by writing or telephoning us at the following:

Investor Relations

BGC Partners, Inc.

499 Park Avenue

New York, New York 10022

(212) 610-2426

Table of Contents

BGC Partners, Inc.

Table of Contents**PART II****Information Not Required in Prospectus****Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.**

The following table sets forth the costs and expenses payable in connection with the offering of the securities being registered, all of which will be paid by BGC Partners, Inc. (the Registrant). All amounts are estimates except the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) registration fee.

| | Amount |
|--|------------------|
| SEC registration fee | \$ 0 |
| Printing and engraving expenses | 5,000 |
| Legal fees and expenses | 50,000 |
| Accounting fees and expenses | 10,000 |
| Transfer agent and registrar fees and expenses | 3,000 |
| Miscellaneous | 7,000 |
| Total | \$ 75,000 |

Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law (the DGCL) provides that a corporation may indemnify directors and officers as well as other employees and individuals against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with any threatened, pending or completed actions, suits or proceedings in which such person is made a party by reason of such person being or having been a director, officer, employee or agent of the Registrant. The DGCL provides that Section 145 is not exclusive of other rights to which those seeking indemnification may be entitled under any bylaws, agreement, vote of stockholders or disinterested directors or otherwise. The Registrant's Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws provide for indemnification by the Registrant of its directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by the DGCL.

Section 102(b)(7) of the DGCL permits a corporation to provide in its certificate of incorporation that a director of the corporation shall not be personally liable to the corporation or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except for liability (1) for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the corporation or its stockholders, (2) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (3) for unlawful payments of dividends or unlawful stock repurchases, redemptions or other distributions or (4) for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit. The Registrant's Restated Certificate of Incorporation provides for such limitation of liability to the fullest extent permitted by the DGCL.

The Registrant maintains standard policies of insurance under which coverage is provided (1) to its directors and officers against loss arising from claims made by reason of breach of duty or other wrongful act, while acting in their capacity as directors and officers of the Registrant, and (2) to the Registrant with respect to payments which may be made by the Registrant to such directors and officers pursuant to any indemnification provision contained in the Registrant's Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws or otherwise as a matter of law.

Item 16. Exhibits.

The Index to Exhibits is hereby incorporated by reference.

II-1

Table of Contents

Item 17. Undertakings.

(a) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) 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;

(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 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) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20 percent 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;

provided, however, that:

Paragraphs (i), (ii) and (iii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the SEC by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(3) 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.

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act to any purchaser:

(i) Each prospectus filed by a Registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and

(ii) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5) or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii) or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by Section 10(a) of the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering

thereof. *Provided, however*, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

(b) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

Table of Contents

(h) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the SEC such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant 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 Registrant 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 Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

Table of Contents**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, BGC Partners, Inc. certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in New York, New York on August 17, 2017.

BGC PARTNERS, INC.

/s/ Howard W. Lutnick

Name: Howard W. Lutnick

Title: Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Each of the undersigned, whose signature appears below, hereby constitutes and appoints Howard W. Lutnick and Stephen M. Merkel, and each of them, his or her true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agent, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him or her and in his or her name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any or all amendments to this registration statement and to file the same with all exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, or his or their substitute or substitutes, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing necessary or appropriate to be done with respect to this registration statement or any amendments hereto in 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 any of them, or his or their substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue thereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the Registrant, BGC Partners, Inc., in the capacities and on the date indicated.

| Signature | Capacity in Which Signed | Date |
|--|---|-----------------|
| /s/ Howard W. Lutnick Howard W. Lutnick | Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer) | August 17, 2017 |
| /s/ Steven R. McMurray Steven R. McMurray | Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer) | August 17, 2017 |
| /s/ Linda A. Bell Linda A. Bell | Director | August 17, 2017 |
| /s/ Stephen T. Curwood Stephen T. Curwood | Director | August 17, 2017 |

Edgar Filing: BGC Partners, Inc. - Form S-3ASR

/s/ John H. Dalton

Director

August 17, 2017

John H. Dalton

/s/ William J. Moran

Director

August 17, 2017

William J. Moran

[Signature Page to Form S-3 Market-Making Registration Statement for 5.125% Senior Notes due 2021]

Table of Contents**INDEX TO EXHIBITS**

The following exhibits are included or incorporated by reference into this registration statement on Form S-3 (certain documents have been previously filed with the SEC pursuant to the Exchange Act by BGC Partners, Inc. (Commission File Numbers 0-28191 and 1-35591):

Exhibit

| Number | Exhibit Title |
|---------------|--|
| 2.1 | Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of May 29, 2007, by and among eSpeed, Inc., BGC Partners, Inc., Cantor Fitzgerald, L.P., BGC Partners, L.P., BGC Global Holdings, L.P. and BGC Holdings, L.P. (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed with the SEC on February 11, 2008) |
| 2.2 | Amendment No. 1, dated as of November 5, 2007, to the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of May 29, 2007, by and among eSpeed, Inc., BGC Partners, Inc., Cantor Fitzgerald, L.P., BGC Partners, L.P., BGC Global Holdings, L.P. and BGC Holdings, L.P. (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed with the SEC on February 11, 2008) |
| 2.3 | Amendment No. 2, dated as of February 1, 2008, to the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of May 29, 2007, by and among eSpeed, Inc., BGC Partners, Inc., Cantor Fitzgerald, L.P., BGC Partners, L.P., BGC Global Holdings, L.P. and BGC Holdings, L.P. (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed with the SEC on February 11, 2008) |
| 2.4 | Stock Purchase Agreement, dated November 15, 2015, by and among GFINet, Inc., GFI TP Holdings Pte Ltd., Intercontinental Exchange, Inc., and, solely for the purposes set forth therein, GFI Group Inc. and BGC Partners, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on November 18, 2015) |
| 2.5 | Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated December 22, 2015, by and among BGC Partners, Inc., JPI Merger Sub 1, Inc., JPI Merger Sub 2, LLC, Jersey Partners Inc., New JP Inc., Michael Gooch and Colin Heffron (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on December 23, 2015) |
| 2.6 | Transaction Agreement, dated as of July 17, 2017, by and among BGC Partners, Inc., BGC Partners, L.P., Cantor Fitzgerald, L.P., Cantor Commercial Real Estate Company, L.P., Cantor Sponsor, L.P., CF Real Estate Finance Holdings, L.P. and CF Real Estate Finance Holdings GP, LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed with the SEC on July 21, 2017) |
| 4.1 | Indenture, dated as of June 26, 2012, by and between BGC Partners, Inc. and U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed with the SEC on June 27, 2012) |
| 4.2 | Third Supplemental Indenture, dated as of May 27, 2016, by and between BGC Partners, Inc. and U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 31, 2016) |
| 4.3 | Form of 5.125% Senior Notes due 2021 (included as Exhibit A to Exhibit 4.2 above) |
| 4.4 | |

Edgar Filing: BGC Partners, Inc. - Form S-3ASR

Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of May 27, 2016, by and between BGC Partners, Inc. and the parties named therein (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 31, 2016)

- 5.1 Opinion of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
- 12.1 Computation of ratio of earnings to fixed charges (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 12.1 to the Registrant's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2017 filed with the SEC on August 8, 2017)
- 23.1 Consent of Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm
- 23.2 Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, independent registered public accounting firm
- 23.3 Consent of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP (included in the opinion filed as Exhibit 5.1)
- 24.1 Power of Attorney (included on the signature pages to this registration statement)
- 25.1 Statement of Eligibility on Form T-1 of U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee