

ARES CAPITAL CORP
Form 10-K
February 28, 2008

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**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

ý ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007

OR

o TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from _____ to _____
Commission File No. 000-50697

ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Maryland
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

33-1089684
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

280 Park Avenue, 22nd Floor, New York, NY 10017
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

(212) 750-7300
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, par value \$0.001 per share	The NASDAQ Global Select Market
Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None	

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes No

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days: Yes No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

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

(Check one):

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes No

The aggregate market value of the voting stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant on June 29, 2007, based on the closing price on that date of \$16.85 on The NASDAQ Global Select Market, was \$1,154,481,019. As of February 27, 2008 there were 72,684,090 shares of the registrant's common stock outstanding.

Portions of the registrant's Proxy Statement for its 2007 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be filed not later than 120 days after the end of the fiscal year covered by this Annual Report on Form 10-K are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Form 10-K.

PART I

Item 1. Business

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Some of the statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K (the "Annual Report") constitute forward-looking statements, which relate to future events or our future performance or financial condition. The forward-looking statements contained in this Annual Report involve risks and uncertainties, including statements as to:

our future operating results;

our business prospects and the prospects of our portfolio companies;

the impact of investments that we expect to make;

our contractual arrangements and relationships with third parties;

the dependence of our future success on the general economy and its impact on the industries in which we invest;

the ability of our portfolio companies to achieve their objectives;

our expected financings and investments;

the adequacy of our cash resources and working capital;

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

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

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

GENERAL

Ares Capital Corporation, a Maryland corporation (together with its subsidiaries, where applicable, "Ares Capital" or the "Company," which may also be referred to as "we," "us," or "our") is a specialty finance company that is a closed-end, non-diversified management investment company. We have elected to be regulated as a business development company or a "BDC" under the Investment Company Act of 1940, or the "Investment Company Act." We were founded in April 2004 and completed our initial public offering on October 8, 2004. Ares Capital's investment objective is to generate both current income and capital appreciation through debt and equity investments. We invest primarily in U.S. middle market companies, where we believe the supply of primary capital is limited and the investment opportunities are most attractive, however, we may from time to time invest in larger companies. In this Annual Report, we generally use the term "middle market" to refer to companies with annual EBITDA between \$5 million and \$50 million. EBITDA represents net income before net interest expense, income tax expense, depreciation and amortization.

We invest primarily in first and second lien senior loans and long-term mezzanine debt. First and second lien senior loans generally are senior debt instruments that rank ahead of subordinated debt of a given portfolio company. These loans also have the benefit of security interests

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on the assets of the portfolio company, which may rank ahead of or be junior to other security interests. Mezzanine debt is subordinated to senior loans and is generally unsecured. In some cases, we may also receive warrants or

options in connection with our debt instruments. Our investments have generally ranged between \$10 million and \$50 million each, although the investment sizes may be more or less than the targeted range and are expected to grow with our capital availability. We also, to a lesser extent, make equity investments in private middle market companies. These investments have generally been less than \$10 million each but may grow with our capital availability and are usually made in conjunction with loans we make to these companies. In addition, the proportion of these investments will change over time given our views on, among other things, the economic and credit environment we are operating in. In connection with our investing activities, we may make commitments with respect to indebtedness or securities of a potential portfolio company substantially in excess of our final investment. In such situations, while we may initially agree to fund up to a certain dollar amount of an investment, we may syndicate a portion of such amount to third parties prior to closing such investment, such that we make a smaller investment than what was reflected in our original commitment.

The first and second lien senior loans generally have stated terms of three to 10 years and the mezzanine debt investments generally have stated terms of up to 10 years, but the expected average life of such first and second lien loans and mezzanine debt is generally between three and seven years. However, there is no limit on the maturity or duration of any security in our portfolio. The debt that we invest in typically is not initially rated by any rating agency, but we believe that if such investments were rated, they would be below investment grade (rated lower than "Baa3" by Moody's Investors Service or lower than "BBB" by Standard & Poor's Corporation). We may invest without limit in debt of any rating, as well as debt that has not been rated by any nationally recognized statistical rating organization.

We believe that our investment adviser, Ares Capital Management LLC ("Ares Capital Management," the "Investment Adviser" or "investment adviser"), is able to leverage the current investment platform, resources and existing relationships with financial sponsors, financial institutions, hedge funds and other investment firms of Ares Partners Management Company LLC and its affiliated companies (collectively, "Ares") to provide us with attractive investments. In addition to deal flow, the Ares investment platform assists our investment adviser in analyzing, structuring and monitoring investments. Ares' senior principals have worked together for many years and have substantial experience investing in senior loans, high yield bonds, mezzanine debt and private equity. The Company has access to the Ares staff of approximately 94 investment professionals and to the 91 administrative professionals employed by Ares who provide assistance in accounting, legal, compliance, technology and investor relations.

While our primary focus is to generate current income and capital appreciation through investments in first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt and, to a lesser extent, equity securities of private companies, we also may invest up to 30% of the portfolio in opportunistic investments. Such investments may include, among others, investments in high-yield bonds, debt and equity securities and distressed debt or equity securities of public companies. We expect that these public companies generally will have debt that is non-investment grade. As part of this 30% of the portfolio, we may also invest in debt of middle market companies located outside of the United States.

In addition to making investments in the Ares Capital portfolio, we manage a senior debt fund, Ivy Hill Middle Market Credit Fund, Ltd. ("Ivy Hill"), which we established during 2007. Our wholly owned subsidiary, Ivy Hill Asset Management, L.P., manages Ivy Hill.

About Ares

Ares is an independent international investment management firm with approximately \$20 billion of total committed capital and over 220 employees as of the date of this report. Ares was founded in 1997 by a group of highly experienced investment professionals.

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

Ares is comprised of the following groups:

Capital Markets Group. The Ares Capital Markets Group currently manages a variety of funds and investment vehicles that have approximately \$13.5 billion of committed capital, focusing primarily on syndicated senior secured loans, high yield bonds, distressed debt, other liquid fixed income investments and other publicly traded debt securities.

Private Debt Group. The Ares Private Debt Group manages the assets of Ares Capital and Ares' private debt middle-market financing activities in Europe, Ares Capital Europe ("ACE"). The Private Debt Group focuses primarily on non-syndicated first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt, which in some cases may include an equity component, and, to a lesser extent, in equity investments, in private middle market companies.

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

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

Ares Capital Management

Ares Capital Management, our investment adviser, is served by a dedicated origination and transaction development team of 31 investment professionals led by our President, Michael Arougheti, and the partners of Ares Capital Management, Eric Beckman, Kipp deVeer, Mitchell Goldstein and Michael Smith. Ares Capital Management leverages off of Ares' entire investment platform and benefits from the significant capital markets, trading and research expertise of all of Ares' investment professionals. Ares funds currently hold over 600 investments in over 30 different industries and have made investments in over 1,600 companies since inception. Ares Capital Management's investment committee has eight members, including Mr. Arougheti, several Ares Capital Management partners, and four founding members of Ares.

MARKET OPPORTUNITY

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

We believe that many senior lenders have, in recent years, de-emphasized their service and product offerings to middle market businesses in favor of lending to large corporate clients and managing capital markets transactions.

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

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

We believe that current credit market dislocation has brought a reduction in competition, a widening of interest spreads, increasing fees and generally more conservative capital structures and deal terms.

COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES

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

Existing investment platform

Ares currently manages approximately \$20.0 billion of committed capital in the related asset classes of syndicated loans, high yield bonds, mezzanine debt and private equity. We believe Ares' current investment platform provides a competitive advantage in terms of access to origination and marketing activities and diligence for Ares Capital.

Seasoned management team

Antony Ressler, Bennett Rosenthal, John Kissick and David Sachs are all founding members of Ares who serve on Ares Capital Management's investment committee. These professionals have an average of over 20 years experience in leveraged finance, including substantial experience in investing in leveraged loans, high yield bonds, mezzanine debt, distressed debt and private equity securities. In addition, our President, Michael Arougheti, leads a dedicated origination and transaction development team of 31 investment professionals, including Mr. Arougheti and the partners of Ares Capital Management, Eric Beckman, Kipp deVeer, Mitch Goldstein and Michael Smith. As a result of Ares' extensive investment experience and the history of its seasoned management team, Ares has developed a strong reputation in the capital markets. We believe that Ares' long history in the market and the extensive experience of the principals investing across market cycles provides Ares Capital Management with real competitive advantage in identifying, investing in, and managing a portfolio of investments in middle market companies.

Experience and focus on middle market companies

Ares has historically focused on investments in middle market companies and we benefit from this experience. In sourcing and analyzing deals, our investment adviser uses Ares' extensive network of relationships with intermediaries focused on middle market companies, including management teams, members of the investment banking community, private equity groups and other investment firms with whom Ares has had long-term relationships. We believe this network enables us to attract well-positioned prospective portfolio company investments. Our investment adviser works closely with the Ares' investment professionals who oversee a portfolio of investments in over 600 companies and provide access to an extensive network of relationships and special insights into industry trends and the state of the capital markets.

Members of our Investment Committee and our investment adviser have significant experience investing across market cycles.

Disciplined investment philosophy

In making its investment decisions, our investment adviser has adopted Ares' long-standing, consistent investment approach that was developed over 15 years ago by its founders. Specifically, Ares Capital Management's investment philosophy and portfolio construction and portfolio management involves an assessment of the overall macroeconomic environment, financial markets and company-specific research and analysis. Our investment approach emphasizes capital preservation, low volatility and minimization of downside risk. In addition to engaging in extensive due diligence from the perspective of a long-term investor, Ares Capital Management's approach seeks to reduce risk in investments by focusing on:

Businesses with strong franchises and sustainable competitive advantages;

Industries with positive long-term dynamics;

Cash flows that are dependable and predictable;

Management teams with demonstrated track records and economic incentives;

Rates of return commensurate with the perceived risks; and

Securities or investments that are structured with appropriate terms and covenants.

Extensive industry focus

We concentrate our investing activities in industries with a history of predictable and dependable cash flows and in which the Ares investment professionals historically have had extensive investment experience. Since its inception in 1997, Ares investment professionals have invested in over 1,600 companies in over 30 different industries. Ares' Capital Markets Group provides a large team of in-house analysts with significant expertise and relationships in industries in which we are likely to invest. Ares investment professionals have developed long-term relationships with management teams and management consultants in these industries, as well as substantial information concerning these industries and potential trends within these industries. The experience of Ares' investment professionals in investing across these industries, throughout various stages of the economic cycle, provides our investment adviser with access to ongoing market insights and favorable investment opportunities.

Flexible transaction structuring

We are flexible in structuring investments, the types of securities in which we invest and the terms associated with such investments. The principals of Ares have extensive experience in a wide variety of securities for leveraged companies with a diverse set of terms and conditions. This approach and experience should enable our investment adviser to identify attractive investment opportunities throughout the economic cycle and across a company's capital structure so that we can make investments consistent with our stated objective. In addition, we have the ability to hold larger investments than many of our middle market competitors. The ability to underwrite, syndicate and hold larger investments (i) increases flexibility, (ii) potentially increases net fee income and earnings through syndication, (iii) broadens market relationships and deal flow and (iv) allows us to optimize portfolio composition. We also focus on acting as agent for or leading many of our investments. In these situations we tend to have (i) greater control over deal terms, pricing and structure and (ii) a closer relationship with issuers leading to more active portfolio management.

OPERATING AND REGULATORY STRUCTURE

Our investment activities are managed by Ares Capital Management and supervised by our board of directors, a majority of whom are independent of Ares and its affiliates. Ares Capital Management is an investment adviser that is registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, or the "Advisers

Act." Under our amended and restated investment advisory and management agreement, referred to herein as our investment advisory and management agreement, we have agreed to pay Ares Capital Management an annual base management fee based on our total assets, as defined under the Investment Company Act (other than cash and cash equivalents, but including assets purchased with borrowed funds), and an incentive fee based on our performance.

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

Also, while we are permitted to finance investments using debt, our ability to use debt is limited in certain significant respects. We borrow funds to make additional investments. We have elected to be treated for federal income tax purposes as a regulated investment company, or a "RIC", under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the "Code."

INVESTMENTS

Ares Capital Corporation portfolio

We have created a diversified portfolio that includes first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt by investing a range of \$10 million to \$50 million of capital, on average, although the investment sizes may be more or less and depending on capital availability, are expected to grow. We also, to a lesser extent, make equity investments in private middle market companies. These investments have generally been less than \$10 million each but may grow with our capital availability and are usually made in conjunction with loans we make to these companies. In addition, the proportion of these investments will change over time given our views on, among other things, the economic and credit environment we are operating in. In connection with our investing activities, we may make commitments with respect to indebtedness or securities of a potential portfolio company substantially in excess of our final investment. In such situations, while we may initially agree to fund up to a certain dollar amount of an investment, we may syndicate a portion of such amount to third parties prior to closing such investment, such that we make a smaller investment than what was reflected in our original commitment. In addition to originating investments, we may acquire investments in the secondary market.

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

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

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Our principal focus is investing in first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt and, to a lesser extent, equity capital, of middle market companies in a variety of industries. We generally target companies that generate positive cash flows. Ares has a staff of 94 investment professionals who specialize in specific industries. We generally seek to invest in companies from the industries in which Ares' investment professionals have direct expertise. The following is a representative list of the industries in which Ares has invested:

Aerospace and Defense

Airlines

Broadcasting/Cable

Cargo Transport

Chemicals

Consumer Products

Containers/Packaging

Education

Energy

Environmental Services

Farming and Agriculture

Financial

Food and Beverage

Gaming

Health Care

Homebuilding

Lodging and Leisure

Manufacturing

Metals/Mining

Paper and Forest Products

Printing/Publishing/Media

Retail

Restaurants

Supermarket and Drug

Technology

Utilities

Wireless and Wireline Telecom

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

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The industry and geographic characteristics of the portfolio at fair value as of December 31, 2007 and 2006 were as follows:

	December 31,	
	2007	2006
Industry		
Health Care	17.1%	14.4%
Financial	9.9	5.6
Business Services	8.5	4.7
Printing/Publishing/Media	7.3	9.5
Education	6.9	5.1
Retail	6.5	6.0
Beverage/Food/Tobacco	6.2	4.3
Other Services	5.8	7.5
Consumer Products	5.6	8.0
Environmental Services	4.9	5.4
Manufacturing	4.7	7.7
Restaurants	4.2	6.4
Containers/Packaging	2.7	6.7
Aerospace and Defense	2.5	2.1
Computers/Electronics	2.0	1.8
Health Clubs	1.9	
Grocery	1.5	
Cargo Transport	0.8	1.0
Homebuilding	0.5	0.8
Telecommunications	0.5	
Broadcasting/Cable		2.1
Farming and Agriculture		0.9
	100.0%	100.0%
Total		

	December 31,	
	2007	2006
Geographic Region		
Mid-Atlantic	22.9%	29.4%
Midwest	22.6	19.2
West	19.0	21.6
Southeast	18.3	21.3
International	12.7	2.8
Northeast	4.5	5.7
	100.0%	100.0%
Total		

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

In addition to such investments, we may invest up to 30% of the portfolio in opportunistic investments in high-yield bonds, debt and equity securities in collateralized debt obligation vehicles,

distressed debt or equity securities of public companies. We expect that these public companies generally will have debt that is non-investment grade. We also may invest in debt of middle market companies located outside of the United States.

Managed funds portfolio

On November 19, 2007, we established a middle market credit fund, Ivy Hill, which is managed by Ivy Hill Asset Management, L.P. in exchange for a 0.50% management fee on the average total assets of Ivy Hill. Ivy Hill primarily invests in first and second lien bank debt of middle market companies. Ivy Hill was initially funded with \$404.0 million of capital including a \$56.0 million investment by the Company consisting of \$40.0 million of Class B notes and \$16.0 million of subordinated notes.

Ivy Hill purchased \$133.0 million of investments from the Company in the fourth quarter of 2007 and may from time to time, buy additional loans from the Company.

INVESTMENT SELECTION

Ares' investment philosophy was developed over the past 16 years and has remained consistent throughout a number of economic cycles. In managing the Company, Ares Capital Management employs the same investment philosophy and portfolio management methodologies used by the investment professionals of Ares in Ares' private investment funds.

Ares Capital Management's investment philosophy and portfolio management involve:

an assessment of the overall macroeconomic environment and financial markets;

company-specific research and analysis; and

with respect to each individual company, an emphasis on capital preservation, low volatility and minimization of downside risk.

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

a comprehensive analysis of issuer creditworthiness, including a quantitative and qualitative assessment of the issuer's business;

an evaluation of management;

an analysis of business strategy and industry trends; and

an in-depth examination of capital structure, financial results and projections.

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

Intensive due diligence

The process through which Ares Capital Management makes an investment decision involves extensive research into the target company, its industry, its growth prospects and its ability to withstand adverse conditions. If the senior investment professional responsible for the transaction determines that an investment opportunity should be pursued, Ares Capital Management will engage in an intensive due diligence process. Approximately 30-40% of the investments initially reviewed make it to the next

phase where they undergo this process. Though each transaction will involve a somewhat different approach, the regular due diligence steps generally to be undertaken include:

meeting with management to get an insider's view of the business, and to probe for potential weaknesses in business prospects;

checking management backgrounds and references;

performing a detailed review of historical financial performance and the quality of earnings;

visiting headquarters and company operations and meeting top and middle level executives;

contacting customers and vendors to assess both business prospects and standard practices;

conducting a competitive analysis, and comparing the issuer to its main competitors on an operating, financial, market share and valuation basis;

researching the industry for historic growth trends and future prospects (including Wall Street research, industry association literature and general news);

assessing asset value and the ability of physical infrastructure and information systems to handle anticipated growth; and

investigating legal risks and financial and accounting systems.

Selective investment process

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

After an investment has been identified and diligence has been completed, a credit research and analysis report is prepared. This report will be reviewed by the senior investment professional in charge of the potential investment. If such senior and other investment professionals are in favor of the potential investment, then it is first presented to an underwriting committee which is comprised of Mr. Arougheti and the partners of Ares Capital Management. If the underwriting committee approves of the potential investment it is then presented to the investment committee.

After the investment is approved by the underwriting committee, a more extensive due diligence process is employed by the transaction team, consisting of primary due diligence on the investment. Additional due diligence with respect to any investment may be conducted on our behalf by attorneys, independent accountants, and other third party consultants and research firms prior to the closing of the investment, as appropriate on a case by case basis. Approximately 7-10% of all investments initially reviewed by the underwriting committee will be presented to the investment committee. Approval of an investment for funding generally requires the consensus of the investment committee including a majority of the members of Ares serving on the investment committee.

Investment structure

Once we have determined that a prospective portfolio company is suitable for investment, we work with the management of that company and its other capital providers, including senior, junior, and equity capital providers, to structure an investment. We negotiate among these parties to agree on how our investment is expected to perform relative to the other capital in the portfolio company's capital structure. Approximately 5% of the investments initially reviewed eventually result in the issuance of formal commitments.

Debt investments

We invest in portfolio companies primarily in the form of first and second lien senior loans and long-term mezzanine debt. The first and second lien senior loans generally have terms of three to 10 years. We generally obtain security interests in the assets of our portfolio companies that will serve as collateral in support of the repayment of the first and second lien senior loans. This collateral may take the form of first or second priority liens on the assets of a portfolio company.

We structure our mezzanine investments primarily as unsecured, subordinated loans that provide for relatively high, fixed interest rates that provide us with significant current interest income. The mezzanine debt investments generally have terms of up to 10 years. These loans typically have interest-only payments in the early years, with amortization of principal deferred to the later years of the mezzanine debt. In some cases, we may enter into loans that, by their terms, convert into equity or additional debt or defer payments of interest (or at least cash interest) for the first few years after our investment. Also, in some cases our mezzanine debt will be collateralized by a subordinated lien on some or all of the assets of the borrower.

In some cases our debt investments may provide for a portion of the interest payable to be payment-in-kind interest. To the extent interest is payment-in-kind, it will be payable through the increase of the principal amount of the loan by the amount of interest due on the then-outstanding aggregate principal amount of such loan. In the case of our first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt, we tailor the terms of the investment to the facts and circumstances of the transaction and the prospective portfolio company, negotiating a structure that aims to protect our rights and manage our risk while creating incentives for the portfolio company to achieve its business plan and improve its profitability. For example, in addition to seeking a senior position in the capital structure of our portfolio companies, we will seek, where appropriate, to limit the downside potential of our investments by:

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

incorporating "put" rights and call protection into the investment structure; and

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

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

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

Equity investments

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

ON-GOING RELATIONSHIPS WITH AND MONITORING OF PORTFOLIO COMPANIES

Ares Capital Management closely monitors each investment we make, maintains a regular dialogue with both the management team and other stakeholders and seeks specifically tailored financial reporting. In addition, senior investment professionals of Ares sometimes take board seats or obtain board observation rights. As of December 31, 2007, of the 76 funded portfolio companies, Ares Capital Management had board seats or board observation rights on more than 38% of them.

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

In addition to various risk management and monitoring tools, the Investment Adviser grades all investments on a scale of 1 to 4 no less frequently than quarterly. This system is intended to reflect the performance of the portfolio company business, the collateral coverage of the investments and other factors considered relevant. Under this system, investments with a grade of 4 involve the least amount of risk in our portfolio. The portfolio company is performing above expectations and the trends and risk factors are generally favorable, including a potential exit. Investments graded 3 involve a level of risk that is similar to the risk at the time of origination. The portfolio company is performing as expected and the risk factors are neutral to favorable. All new investments are initially graded 3. Investments graded 2 involve a portfolio company performing below expectations and indicates that the investments risk has increased materially since origination. The portfolio company may be out of compliance with debt covenants, however, payments are generally not more than 120 days past due. For investments graded 2, we increase procedures to monitor the portfolio company and we will write down the fair value of the investment if it is deemed to be impaired. An investment grade of 1 indicates that the portfolio company is performing materially below expectations and that the investment risk has substantially increased since origination. Most or all of the debt covenants are out of compliance and payments are substantially delinquent. Investments graded 1 are not anticipated to be repaid in full and we will reduce the fair market value of the investment to the amount we anticipate will be recovered. The Investment Adviser employs half-point increments to reflect underlying trends in portfolio company operating or financial performance, as well as the general outlook. As of December 31, 2007, the weighted average investment grade of the investments in our portfolio was 3.0 and one loan was past due or on non-accrual.

MANAGERIAL ASSISTANCE

As a BDC, we offer, and must provide upon request, managerial assistance to our portfolio companies. This assistance could involve, among other things, monitoring the operations of our

portfolio companies, participating in board and management meetings, consulting with and advising officers of portfolio companies and providing other organizational and financial guidance. We may receive fees for these services.

INVESTMENT ADVISORY AND MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

Management services

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

determines the composition of our portfolio, the nature and timing of the changes to our portfolio and the manner of implementing such changes;

identifies, evaluates and negotiates the structure of the investments we make (including performing due diligence on our prospective portfolio companies);

closes and monitors the investments we make; and

determines the securities and other assets that we purchase, retain or sell.

Ares Capital Management was initially formed to provide investment advisory services to us and it has not previously provided investment advisory services to anyone else. However, its services to us under the investment advisory and management agreement are not exclusive, and it is free to furnish similar services to other entities.

Management fee

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

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

The incentive fee has the following two parts:

One part is calculated and payable quarterly in arrears based on our pre-incentive fee net investment income for the quarter. Pre-incentive fee net investment income means interest income, dividend income and any other income (including any other fees (other than fees for providing managerial assistance), such as commitment, origination, structuring, diligence and consulting fees or other fees that we receive from portfolio companies) accrued during the calendar quarter, minus our operating expenses for the quarter (including the base management fee, expenses payable under the administration agreement, and any interest expense and dividends paid on any outstanding preferred stock, but excluding the incentive fee). Pre-incentive fee net investment income includes, in the case of investments with a deferred interest feature (such as market discount, debt instruments with payment-in-kind interest, preferred stock with payment-in-kind dividends and zero coupon securities), accrued income that we have not yet received in cash. The investment adviser is not under any

obligation to reimburse us for any part of the incentive fee it received that was based on accrued income that we never receive as a result of a default by an entity on the obligation that resulted in the accrual of such income.

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

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

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

no incentive fee in any calendar quarter in which our pre-incentive fee net investment income does not exceed the hurdle rate;

100% of our pre-incentive fee net investment income with respect to that portion of such pre-incentive fee net investment income, if any, that exceeds the hurdle rate but is less than 2.50% in any calendar quarter. We refer to this portion of our pre-incentive fee net investment income (which exceeds the hurdle rate but is less than 2.50%) as the "catch-up." The "catch-up" is meant to provide our investment adviser with 20% of our pre-incentive fee net investment income as if a hurdle rate did not apply if this net investment income exceeds 2.50% in any calendar quarter; and

20% of the amount of our pre-incentive fee net investment income, if any, that exceeds 2.50% in any calendar quarter.

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

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

Payment of our expenses

All investment professionals of the investment adviser and its staff when and to the extent engaged in providing investment advisory and management services, and the compensation and routine overhead expenses of such personnel allocable to such services, are provided and paid for by Ares Capital Management. We bear all other costs and expenses of our operations and transactions, including those relating to: organization; calculation of our net asset value (including the cost and expenses of any independent valuation firm); expenses incurred by Ares Capital Management payable to third parties, including agents, consultants or other advisers, in monitoring our financial and legal affairs and in

monitoring our investments and performing due diligence on our prospective portfolio companies; interest payable on debt, if any, incurred to finance our investments; offerings of our common stock and other securities; investment advisory and management fees; administration fees; fees payable to third parties, including agents, consultants or other advisers, relating to, or associated with, evaluating and making investments; transfer agent and custodial fees; registration fees; listing fees; taxes; independent directors' fees and expenses; costs of preparing and filing reports or other documents of the SEC; the costs of any reports, proxy statements or other notices to stockholders, including printing costs; to the extent we are covered by any joint insurance policies, our allocable portion of the insurance premiums for such policies; direct costs and expenses of administration, including auditor and legal costs; and all other expenses incurred by us or Ares Administration in connection with administering our business, such as our allocable portion of overhead under the administration agreement, including our allocable portion of the salary and cost of our officers (including our chief compliance officer, our chief financial officer, and our vice president of investor relations and treasurer) and their respective staffs (including travel).

Duration and termination

Unless terminated earlier as described below, the investment advisory and management agreement will remain in effect from year to year if approved annually by our board of directors or by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of our outstanding voting securities, including, in either case, approval by a majority of our directors who are not interested persons. The investment advisory and management agreement will automatically terminate in the event of its assignment. The investment advisory and management agreement may be terminated by either party without penalty upon 60 days' written notice to the other.

Indemnification

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

Organization of the investment adviser

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

ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENT

We are also party to a separate administration agreement, referred to herein as the administration agreement, with Ares Operations LLC ("Ares Administration") an affiliate of Ares Management. Pursuant to the administration agreement, Ares Administration furnishes us with office equipment and clerical, bookkeeping and record keeping services at our office facilities. Under the administration agreement, Ares Administration also performs, or oversees the performance of, our required administrative services, which include, among other things, being responsible for the financial records which we are required to maintain and preparing reports to our stockholders and reports filed with the SEC. In addition, Ares Administration assists us in determining and publishing our net asset value, oversees the preparation and filing of our tax returns and the printing and dissemination of reports to

our stockholders, and generally oversees the payment of our expenses and the performance of administrative and professional services rendered to us by others. Payments under the administration agreement are equal to an amount based upon our allocable portion of Ares Administration's overhead in performing its obligations under the administration agreement, including our allocable portion of the cost of our officers and their respective staffs. The administration agreement may be terminated by either party without penalty upon 60-days' written notice to the other party.

Indemnification

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

COMPETITION

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

LEVERAGE

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

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

As part of the CP Funding Facility, we are subject to limitations as to how borrowed funds may be used including restrictions on geographic concentrations, sector concentrations, loan size, payment frequency and status, average life, collateral interests and investment ratings as well as regulatory restrictions on leverage which may affect the amount of funds that Ares Capital CP may obtain. There are also certain requirements relating to portfolio performance, including required minimum portfolio

yield and limitations on delinquencies and charge-offs, violation of which could result in the early amortization of the CP Funding Facility and limit further advances under the CP Funding Facility and in some cases could be an event of default. Such limitations, requirements, and associated defined terms are as provided for in the documents governing the CP Funding Facility. The CP Funding Facility expires on October 8, 2008 unless extended prior to such date with the consent of the lender. If the CP Funding Facility is not extended, any principal amounts then outstanding will be amortized over a 24 month period through a termination date of October 6, 2010. Under the terms of the CP Funding Facility, we were required to pay a 0.375% renewal fee for each of the two years following the closing date of the CP Funding Facility. A payment in the amount of \$843,750 was made in both 2005 and in 2006 related to this renewal fee.

The interest rate charged on the funding is based on the commercial paper rate plus 100 basis points and payable quarterly. As of December 31, 2007, the commercial paper rate was 5.1147%. The commitment fee for any unused portions of the CP Funding Facility ranges from 0.10% to 0.125%, depending on funding levels.

As of December 31, 2007, the principal amount outstanding under the CP Funding Facility was \$85.0 million.

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

Under the Revolving Credit Facility, the lenders initially agreed to extend credit to Ares Capital in an initial aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$250 million at any one time outstanding. The Revolving Credit Facility provides also for issuing letters of credit. The Revolving Credit Facility is a five-year revolving facility (with a stated maturity date of December 28, 2010) and with certain exceptions is secured by substantially all of the assets in our portfolio (other than investments held by Ares Capital CP under the CP Funding Facility and investments held by ARCC CLO under the Debt Securitization (each as defined below)). The Revolving Credit Facility also includes an "accordion" feature that allows us to increase the size of the Revolving Credit Facility under certain circumstances. Effective March 1, 2007, under this "accordion" feature, the aggregate principal amount of the Revolving Credit Facility was increased to \$350 million. On November 13, 2007, the aggregate principal amount of the Revolving Credit Facility was increased to \$510.0 million and the "accordion" feature was amended allowing us to increase the size of the Revolving Credit Facility to a maximum of \$765.0 million under certain circumstances.

Subject to certain exceptions, the interest rate payable under the Revolving Credit Facility is 100 basis points over LIBOR and the commitment fee for unused portions of the credit facility of 0.20%.

As of December 31, 2007, the principal amount outstanding under the Revolving Credit Facility was \$282.5 million. In addition, as of December 31, 2007, the Company had \$11.4 million in standby letters of credit issued through the Revolving Credit Facility.

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

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

On July 7, 2006, through our newly formed, wholly owned Delaware subsidiary, ARCC CLO 2006 LLC ("ARCC CLO"), we completed a \$400.0 million debt securitization (the "Debt Securitization") where approximately \$314.0 million principal amount of asset-backed notes (including \$50.0 million revolving notes, all of which was drawn down as of December 31, 2007) (the "CLO Notes") were issued to third parties and secured by a pool of middle market loans that have been purchased or originated by the Company. We retained approximately \$86.0 million of certain BBB and non-rated securities in the Debt Securitization (the "Retained Notes"). The blended pricing of the CLO Notes, excluding fees, is approximately 3-month LIBOR plus 34 basis points. The Debt Securitization is an on-balance-sheet financing for the Company. As of December 31, 2007, \$314.0 million was outstanding under the Debt Securitization (not including the Retained Notes). The CLO Notes mature on December 20, 2019.

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

STAFFING

We do not currently have any employees and do not expect to have any employees. Services necessary for our business are provided by individuals who are employees of Ares Capital Management and Ares Administration, pursuant to the terms of the management agreement and the administration agreement. Each of our executive officers described under "Management" is an employee of Ares Administration and/or Ares Capital Management. Our day-to-day investment operations are managed by our investment adviser. Most of the services necessary for the origination and administration of our investment portfolio are provided by investment professionals employed by Ares Capital Management. Including Michael Arougheti, our President, Ares Capital Management has 30 investment professionals who focus on origination and transaction development and the ongoing monitoring of our investments. In addition, we reimburse Ares Administration for our allocable portion of expenses incurred by it in performing its obligations under the administration agreement, including rent and our allocable portion of the cost of our officers and their respective staffs.

REGULATION

We are a BDC under the Investment Company Act and have elected to be treated as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code. As with other companies regulated by the Investment Company Act, a BDC must adhere to certain substantive regulatory requirements. The Investment Company Act contains prohibitions and restrictions relating to transactions between business development companies and their affiliates (including any investment advisers or sub-advisers), principal underwriters and affiliates of those affiliates or underwriters and requires that a majority of the directors be persons other than "interested persons," as that term is defined in the Investment Company Act. In addition, the Investment Company Act provides that we may not change the nature of our business so as to cease to be, or to withdraw our election as, a BDC unless approved by a majority of our outstanding voting securities. A majority of the outstanding voting securities of a company is defined under the Investment Company Act as the lesser of: (i) 67% or more of such company's shares present at a meeting if more than 50% of the outstanding shares of such company are present and represented by proxy or (ii) more than 50% of the outstanding shares of such company.

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We may invest up to 100% of our assets in securities acquired directly from issuers in privately negotiated transactions. With respect to such securities, we may, for the purpose of public resale, be deemed an "underwriter" as that term is defined in the Securities Act of 1933. Our intention is to not write (sell) or buy put or call options to manage risks associated with the publicly traded securities of our portfolio companies, except that we may enter into hedging transactions to manage the risks associated with interest rate fluctuations. However, we may purchase or otherwise receive warrants to purchase the common stock of our portfolio companies in connection with acquisition financing or other investment. Similarly, in connection with an acquisition, we may acquire rights to require the issuers of acquired securities or their affiliates to repurchase them under certain circumstances. We also do not intend to acquire securities issued by any investment company that exceed the limits imposed by the Investment Company Act. Under these limits, we generally cannot acquire more than 3% of the voting stock of any registered investment company, invest more than 5% of the value of our total assets in the securities of one investment company or invest more than 10% of the value of our total assets in the securities of investment companies in general. With regard to that portion of our portfolio invested in securities issued by investment companies, it should be noted that such investments might subject our stockholders to additional expenses. None of these policies are fundamental and may be changed without stockholder approval.

PRIVACY PRINCIPLES

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

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

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

AVAILABLE INFORMATION

Our Internet address is www.arescapitalcorp.com. We make available free of charge on our website our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the SEC. Information contained on our website is not incorporated by reference into this Annual Report and you should not consider information contained on our website to be part of this Annual Report.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

RISK FACTORS THAT MAY AFFECT FUTURE RESULTS

You should carefully consider these risk factors, together with all of the other information included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, including our consolidated financial statements and the related notes thereto before making a decision to purchase our common stock. The risks set out below are not the only risks we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently deem to be immaterial also may materially adversely affect our business, financial condition and/or operating results. If any of the following events occur, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially adversely affected. In such case, our net asset value and the trading price of our common stock could decline, and you may lose all or part of your investment.

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

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

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

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

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

Our ability to achieve our investment objective depends on our ability to acquire suitable investments and monitor and administer those investments, which depends, in turn, on Ares Capital Management's ability to identify, invest in and monitor companies that meet our investment criteria. Accomplishing this result on a cost-effective basis is largely a function of Ares Capital Management's structuring of the investment process and its ability to provide competent, attentive and efficient services to us. Our executive officers and the members of Ares Capital Management have substantial responsibilities in connection with their roles at Ares and with the other Ares funds as well as responsibilities under the investment advisory and management agreement. They may also be called upon to provide managerial assistance to our portfolio companies on behalf of our administrator. These demands on their time, which will increase as the number of investments grow, may distract them or slow the rate of investment. In order to grow, Ares Capital Management will need to hire, train, supervise and manage new employees. However, we cannot assure you that any such employees will be retained. Any failure to manage our future growth effectively could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, as we grow, we may open up new offices in new geographic regions that may increase our direct operating expenses without corresponding revenue growth.

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

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

We operate in a highly competitive market for investment opportunities.

A number of entities compete with us to make the types of investments that we make in middle market companies. We compete with other business development companies, public and private funds, commercial and investment banks, commercial financing companies, insurance companies, high yield investors, hedge funds, and, to the extent they provide an alternative form of financing, private equity funds. Many of our competitors are substantially larger and have considerably greater financial and marketing resources than we do. Some competitors may have a lower cost of funds and access to funding sources that are not available to us. In addition, some of our competitors may have higher risk tolerances or different risk assessments, which could allow them to consider a wider variety of investments and establish more relationships than us. Furthermore, many of our competitors are not subject to the regulatory restrictions that the Investment Company Act imposes on us as a BDC. We cannot assure you that the competitive pressures we face will not have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Also, as a result of this competition, we may not be able to take advantage of attractive investment opportunities from time to time, and we cannot assure you that we will be able to identify and make investments that meet our investment objective.

We do not seek to compete primarily based on the interest rates we offer and we believe that some of our competitors may make loans with interest rates that will be comparable to or lower than the rates we offer. We also compete with our competitors based on an existing investment platform, our seasoned management team, our experience and focus on middle market companies, our disciplined investment philosophy, our extensive industry focus and our flexible transaction structuring.

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

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

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

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

amounts, to the extent a stockholder is not participating in our dividend reinvestment plan, will not be available to fund investment originations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

We may issue debt securities or preferred stock, which we refer to collectively as "senior securities," and borrow money from banks or other financial institutions up to the maximum amount permitted by the Investment Company Act. Under the provisions of the Investment Company Act, we are permitted, as a BDC, to incur indebtedness or issue senior securities only in amounts such that our asset coverage, as defined in the Investment Company Act, equals at least 200% after such incurrence or issuance. If the value of our assets declines, we may be unable to satisfy this test, which would prohibit us from paying dividends and could prevent us from maintaining our status as a RIC. If we cannot satisfy this test, we may be required to sell a portion of our investments and, depending on the nature of our leverage, repay a portion of our indebtedness at a time when such sales may be disadvantageous. As of December 31, 2007, our asset coverage for senior securities was 265%.

We are not generally able to issue and sell our common stock at a price below net asset value per share. We may, however, sell our common stock, or warrants, options or rights to acquire our common stock, at a price below the current net asset value of the common stock if our board of directors

determines that such sale is in our best interests and the best interests of our stockholders, and, in certain instances, our stockholders approve such sale. In any such case, the price at which our securities are to be issued and sold may not be less than a price which, in the determination of our board of directors, closely approximates the market value of such securities (less any commission or discount). If our common stock trades at a discount to net asset value, this restriction could adversely affect our ability to raise capital.

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

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

As of December 31, 2007, we had \$367.5 million of outstanding borrowings under our Facilities and \$314.0 million of outstanding CLO Notes. In order for us to cover our annual interest payments on indebtedness, we must achieve annual returns on our December 31, 2007 total assets of at least 1.92%. The weighted average interest rate charged on our borrowings as of December 31, 2007 was 5.66%. We intend to continue borrowing under the Facilities in the future and we may increase the size of the Facilities or otherwise issue debt securities or other evidences of indebtedness. Our ability to service our debt depends largely on our financial performance and is subject to prevailing economic conditions and competitive pressures. The amount of leverage that we employ at any particular time will depend on our investment adviser's and our board of directors' assessment of market and other factors at the time of any proposed borrowing.

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

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

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The following table illustrates the effect on return to a holder of our common stock of the leverage created by our use of borrowing at the interest rate of 5.66% and assumes (i) our total value of net assets as of December 31, 2007; (ii) \$681.5 million debt outstanding as of December 31, 2007 and (iii) hypothetical annual returns on our portfolio of minus 15 to plus 15 percent.

Assumed Return on Portfolio (Net of Expenses)(1)	-15.0%	-10.0%	-5.0%	%	5.0%	10.0%	15.0%
Corresponding Return to Common Stockholders(2)	-27.8%	-19.6%	-11.5%	-3.4%	4.7%	12.8%	20.9%

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

(2) In order to compute the "Corresponding Return to Common Stockholders," the "Assumed Return on Portfolio" is multiplied by the total value of our assets at December 31, 2007 to obtain an assumed return to us. From this amount, the interest expense calculated by multiplying the interest rate of 5.66% times the \$681.5 million debt is subtracted to determine the return available to stockholders. The return available to stockholders is then divided by the total value of our net assets as of December 31, 2007 to determine the "Corresponding Return to Common Stockholders."

We may in the future determine to fund a portion of our investments with preferred stock, which would magnify the potential for gain or loss and the risks of investing in us in the same way as our borrowings.

Because preferred stock is another form of leverage and the dividends on any preferred stock we issue must be cumulative, preferred stock has the same risks to our common stockholders as borrowings. Payment of such dividends and repayment of the liquidation preference of such preferred stock must take preference over any dividends or other payments to our common stockholders, and preferred stockholders are not subject to any of our expenses or losses and are not entitled to participate in any income or appreciation in excess of their stated preference.

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

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

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

A large percentage of our portfolio investments are not publicly traded. The fair value of investments that are not publicly traded may not be readily determinable. We value these investments quarterly at fair value as determined in good faith by our board of directors based on the input of our

management and audit committee. However, we may be required to value our investments more frequently as determined in good faith by our board of directors to the extent necessary to reflect significant events affecting their value. In addition, the board of directors currently receives input from independent valuation firms that have been engaged at the direction of the board to value each portfolio security at least once during a trailing 12 month period. The valuation process is conducted at the end of each fiscal quarter, with approximately a quarter of our portfolio companies without market quotation subject to valuation by the independent valuation firm each quarter. The types of factors that may be considered in valuing our investments include the enterprise value of the portfolio company, the nature and realizable value of any collateral, the portfolio company's ability to make payments and its earnings, the markets in which the portfolio company does business, comparison to publicly traded companies, discounted cash flow and other relevant factors. Because such valuations, and particularly valuations of private investments and private companies, are inherently uncertain, may fluctuate over short periods of time and may be based on estimates, our determinations of fair value may differ materially from the values that would have been used if a ready market for these investments existed and may differ materially from the values that we may ultimately realize.

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

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

We may experience fluctuations in our quarterly results.

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

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

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

Although other Ares funds generally have different primary investment objectives than Ares Capital, they may from time to time invest in asset classes similar to those targeted by Ares Capital. Ares Capital Management endeavors to allocate investment opportunities in a fair and equitable

manner, and in any event consistent with any fiduciary duties owed to Ares Capital. Nevertheless, it is possible that we may not be given the opportunity to participate in certain investments made by investment funds managed by investment managers affiliated with Ares Capital Management.

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

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

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

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

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

Our investment advisory and management agreement automatically renews for successive annual periods if approved by our board of directors or by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of our outstanding voting securities, including, in either case, approval by a majority of our directors who are not interested persons. However, both we and Ares Capital Management have the right to terminate the agreement without penalty upon 60 days' written notice to the other party. Moreover, conflicts of interest may arise if our investment adviser seeks to change the terms of our investment advisory and management agreement, including, for example, the terms for compensation. While any material change to the investment advisory and management agreement must be submitted to stockholders for approval under the Investment Company Act, we may from time to time decide it is appropriate to seek stockholder approval to change the terms of the agreement.

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

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

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

Our investment adviser has not assumed any responsibility to us other than to render the services described in the investment management agreement, and it will not be responsible for any action of our board of directors in declining to follow our investment adviser's advice or recommendations. Pursuant to the investment management agreement, our investment adviser and its managing members, officers and employees will not be liable to us for their acts, under the investment management agreement, absent willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard in the performance of their duties. We have agreed to indemnify, defend and protect our investment adviser and its managing members, officers and employees with respect to all damages, liabilities, costs and expenses resulting from acts of our investment adviser not arising out of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard in the performance of their duties under the investment management agreement. These protections may lead our investment adviser to act in a riskier manner when acting on our behalf than it would when acting for its own account.

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

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

Under the investment advisory and management agreement, we will defer cash payment of any incentive fee otherwise earned by our investment adviser if, during the most recent four full calendar quarter period ending on or prior to the date such payment is to be made, the sum of (a) our aggregate distributions to our stockholders and (b) our change in net assets (defined as total assets less indebtedness) is less than 8.0% of our net assets at the beginning of such period. These calculations will be adjusted for any share issuances or repurchases.

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

We and our portfolio companies are subject to regulation by laws at the local, state and federal levels. These laws and regulations, as well as their interpretation, may be changed from time to time.

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Accordingly, any change in these laws or regulations, or their interpretation, or any failure by us to comply with these laws or regulations may adversely affect our business. As discussed above, there is a risk that certain investments that we intend to treat as qualifying assets will be determined to not be eligible for such treatment. Any such determination would have a material adverse effect on our business.

The Company may not replicate Ares' historical success.

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

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

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

Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments

None.

Item 2. Properties

We do not own any real estate or other physical properties materially important to our operation. Our headquarters are currently located at 280 Park Avenue, 22nd Floor, Building East, New York, New York, where we lease office facilities (the "ARCC Office Space") directly from a third party. In addition, we have a sublease agreement with Ares Management whereby Ares Management subleases approximately 25% of the ARCC Office Space for a fixed rent equal to 25% of the basic annual rent payable by us under our lease, plus certain additional costs and expenses.

Item 3. Legal Proceedings

We are not subject to any pending legal proceeding, and no such proceedings are known to be contemplated.

Item 4. Submission Of Matters To A Vote Of Security Holders

No matters were submitted to a vote of stockholders through the solicitation of proxies or otherwise during the fourth quarter of the fiscal year ending December 31, 2007.

PART II

Item 5. Market For Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters And Issuer Purchases Of Equity Securities

PRICE RANGE OF COMMON STOCK

Our common stock is quoted on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "ARCC." We completed our initial public offering on October 8, 2004 at the price to the public of \$15.00 per share. Prior to this date there was no public market for our common stock. Our common stock has historically traded at prices both above and below its net asset value. It is not possible to predict whether our common stock will trade at, above or below net asset value.

The following table sets forth the range of high and low closing sales prices per share of our common stock as reported on The NASDAQ Global Select Market and the dividends declared by us for each fiscal quarter since of our initial public offering. The stock quotations are interdealer quotations and do not include markups, markdowns or commissions and may not necessarily represent actual transactions. As of February 27, 2008, the last reported sales price of our common stock on The NASDAQ Global Select Market was \$14.00 per share.

	NAV(1)	Price Range		Cash Dividend Per Share(2)
		High	Low	
Fiscal 2006				
First quarter	\$ 15.03	\$ 17.97	\$ 16.23	\$ 0.36
Second quarter	\$ 15.10	\$ 17.50	\$ 16.36	\$ 0.38
Third quarter	\$ 15.06	\$ 17.51	\$ 15.67	\$ 0.40
Fourth quarter	\$ 15.17	\$ 19.31	\$ 17.39	\$ 0.50(3)
Fiscal 2007				
First quarter	\$ 15.34	\$ 20.46	\$ 17.82	\$ 0.41
Second quarter	\$ 15.84	\$ 18.84	\$ 16.85	\$ 0.41
Third quarter	\$ 15.74	\$ 17.53	\$ 14.92	\$ 0.42
Fourth quarter	\$ 15.47	\$ 17.47	\$ 14.40	\$ 0.42

- (1) Net asset value per share is determined as of the last day in the relevant quarter and therefore may not reflect the net asset value per share on the date of the high and low closing sales prices. The net asset values shown are based on outstanding shares at the end of each period.
- (2) Represents the dividend declared in the specified quarter.
- (3) Includes an additional cash dividend of \$0.10 per share.

HOLDERS

As of February 27, 2008, there were 22 holders of record of our common stock (including Cede & Co.).

DIVIDEND POLICY

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We currently intend to distribute quarterly dividends to our stockholders. Our quarterly dividends, if any, are determined by our board of directors.

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The following table summarizes our dividends declared during 2006 and 2007:

Date Declared	Record Date	Payment Date	Amount
February 28, 2006	March 24, 2006	April 14, 2006	\$ 0.36
May 8, 2006	June 15, 2006	June 30, 2006	\$ 0.38
August 9, 2006	September 15, 2006	September 29, 2006	\$ 0.40
November 8, 2006	December 15, 2006	December 29, 2006	\$ 0.40
November 8, 2006	December 15, 2006	December 29, 2006	\$ 0.10
Total declared for 2006			<u>\$ 1.64</u>
March 8, 2007	March 19, 2007	March 30, 2007	\$ 0.41
May 10, 2007	June 15, 2007	June 29, 2007	\$ 0.41
August 9, 2007	September 14, 2007	September 28, 2007	\$ 0.42
November 8, 2007	December 14, 2007	December 31, 2007	\$ 0.42
Total declared for 2007			<u>\$ 1.66</u>

Of the dividends declared during the year ended December 31, 2007, \$1.59 comprised ordinary income and \$0.07 comprised long-term capital gains. Of the dividends declared during the year ended December 31, 2006, \$1.47 comprised ordinary income and \$0.17 comprised long-term capital gains.

To maintain our RIC status, we must timely distribute an amount equal to at least 90% of our ordinary income and realized net short-term capital gains in excess of realized net long-term capital losses, if any, reduced by deductible expenses, out of the assets legally available for distribution, for each year. To avoid certain excise taxes imposed on RICs, we are generally required to distribute during each calendar year an amount at least equal to the sum of (1) 98% of our ordinary income for the calendar year, plus (2) 98% of our capital gains in excess of capital losses for the one-year period ending on October 31 of the calendar year plus (3) any ordinary income and net capital gains for preceding years that were not distributed during such years. If this requirement is not met, we will be required to pay a nondeductible excise tax equal to 4% of the amount by which 98% of the current year's taxable income exceeds the distribution for the year. The taxable income on which an excise tax is paid is generally carried forward and distributed to stockholders in the next tax year. Depending on the level of taxable income earned in a tax year, we may choose to carry forward taxable income in excess of current year distributions into the next tax year and pay a 4% excise tax on such income, as required. Our excise tax liability for the year ended December 31, 2007 was approximately \$100,000 compared to approximately \$570,000 for December 31, 2006. We cannot assure you that we will achieve results that will permit the payment of any cash distributions.

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

RECENT SALES OF UNREGISTERED SECURITIES

We did not sell any securities during the period covered by this report that were not registered under the Securities Act.

ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

In December 2007, as a part of the Company's dividend reinvestment plan for our common stockholders, we purchased 237,686 shares of our common stock for \$3.6 million in the open market in

order to satisfy the reinvestment portion of our dividends. The following chart outlines repurchases of our common stock during the quarter ended December 31, 2007.

Period	Total Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid Per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	Maximum (or Approximate Dollar Value) of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs
October 1, 2007 through October 31, 2007				
November 1, 2007 through November 30, 2007				
December 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007	237,686(1)	\$ 15.00		

- (1) Pursuant to our Dividend Reinvestment Plan, we directed our plan administrator to purchase 237,686 shares in the open market in order to satisfy our obligations to deliver shares of common stock to our stockholders with respect to our dividend for the fourth quarter of 2007.

COMPARISON OF CUMULATIVE TOTAL RETURN AMONG ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION, S&P 500 AND S&P SPECIALIZED FINANCE INDEX

SOURCE: Standard & Poor's Institutional Market Services
 NOTES: Assumes \$100 invested on 10/8/2004 (the date of Ares Capital Corporation's initial public offering) in Ares Capital Corporation, in S&P 500 and in S&P Specialized Finance Index All dividends are reinvested on a monthly basis

Oct04 Dec04 Dec05 Dec06 Dec07

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Ares Capital Corporation	100	132	118	153	130
S&P 500	100	108	114	132	139
S&P Specialized Finance Index	100	118	154	162	153

The graph and other information furnished under this Part II Item 5 (d) of this Form 10-K shall not be deemed to be "soliciting material" or to be "filed" with the Commission or subject to Regulation 14A or 14C, or to the liabilities of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"), as amended.

Item 6. Selected Consolidated Financial Data

The following selected financial and other data for the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005, and for the period from June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004 are derived from our consolidated financial statements which have been audited by KPMG LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm whose report thereon is included within this Annual Report. The data should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and notes thereto and "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," which are included elsewhere in this Annual Report.

ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA
As of and For the Years Ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005 and As of and For the
Period June 23, 2004 (inception) Through December 31, 2004

	As of and For the Year Ended December 31, 2007	As of and For the Year Ended December 31, 2006	As of and For the Year Ended December 31, 2005	As of and For the Period June 23, 2004 (inception) Through December 31, 2004
Total Investment Income	\$ 188,873,228	\$ 120,020,908	\$ 41,850,477	\$ 4,380,848
Net Realized and Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Investments and Foreign Currencies	(4,116,584)	13,063,717	14,727,276	475,393
Total Expenses	94,750,617	58,458,015	14,568,677	1,665,753
Income Tax Expense (Benefit), Including Excise Tax	(826,437)	4,931,288	158,000	
Net Increase in Stockholders' Equity Resulting from Operations	\$ 90,832,464	\$ 69,695,322	\$ 41,851,076	\$ 3,190,488
Per Share Data:				
Net Increase in Stockholder's Equity Resulting from Operations:				
Basic:	\$ 1.37	\$ 1.61	\$ 1.78	\$ 0.29
Diluted:	\$ 1.37	\$ 1.61	\$ 1.78	\$ 0.29
Cash Dividend Declared:	\$ 1.66	\$ 1.64	\$ 1.30	\$ 0.30
Total Assets	\$ 1,829,404,737	\$ 1,347,990,954	\$ 613,645,144	\$ 220,455,614
Total Debt	\$ 681,528,056	\$ 482,000,000	\$ 18,000,000	\$ 55,500,000
Total Stockholders' Equity	\$ 1,124,549,923	\$ 789,433,404	\$ 569,612,199	\$ 159,708,305
Other Data:				
Number of Portfolio Companies at Period End(6)	78	60	38	20
Principal Amount of Investments Purchased(1)	\$ 1,251,300,000	\$ 1,087,507,000	\$ 504,299,000	\$ 234,102,000
Principal Amount of Investments Sold and Repayments(2)	\$ 718,695,000	\$ 430,021,000	\$ 108,415,000	\$ 52,272,000
Total Return Based on Market Value(3)	(14.76)%	29.12%	(10.60)%	31.53%
Total Return Based on Net Asset Value(4)	8.98%	10.73%	12.04%	(1.80)%
Weighted Average Yield of Debt and Income Producing Equity Securities(5):	11.68%	11.95%	11.25%	12.36%

(1)

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

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- (2) The information presented for the period June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004 excludes \$9.7 million of publicly traded fixed income securities.
- (3) Total return based on market value for the year ended December 31, 2007 equals the decrease of the ending market value at December 31, 2007 of \$14.63 per share over the ending market value at December 31, 2006 of \$19.11 per share plus the declared dividends of \$1.66 per share for the year ended December 31, 2007. Total return based on market value for the year ended December 31, 2006 equals the increase of the ending market value at December 31, 2006 of \$19.11 per share over the ending market value at December 31, 2005 of \$16.07 per share plus the declared dividends of \$1.64 per share for the year ended December 31, 2006. Total return based on market value for the year ended December 31, 2005 equals the decrease of the ending market value at December 31, 2005 of \$16.07 per share over the ending market value at December 31, 2004 of \$19.43 per share plus the declared dividends of \$1.30 per share for the year ended December 31, 2005. Total return based on market value for the period June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004 equals the increase of the ending market value at December 31, 2004 of \$19.43 per share over the offering price of \$15.00 per share plus the declared dividend of \$0.30 per share (includes return of capital of \$0.01 per share) for holders of record on December 27, 2004, divided by the offering price. Total return based on market value is not annualized.
- (4) Total return based on net asset value for the year ended December 31, 2007 equals the change in net asset value during the period (adjusted for share issuances) plus the declared dividends of \$1.66 per share for the year ended December 31, 2007, divided by the beginning net asset value. Total return based on net asset value for the year ended December 31, 2006 equals the change in net asset value during the period (adjusted for share issuances) plus the declared dividends of \$1.64 per share for the year ended December 31, 2006, divided by the beginning net asset value. Total return based on net asset value for the year ended December 31, 2005 equals the change in net asset value during the period (adjusted for share issuances) plus the declared dividends of \$1.30 per share for the year ended December 31, 2005, divided by the beginning net asset value. Total return based on net asset value for the period June 23, 2004 (inception) through December 31, 2004 equals the change in net asset value during the period plus the declared dividend of \$0.30 per share (includes return of capital of \$0.01 per share) for holders of record on December 27, 2004, divided by the beginning net asset value. Total return based on net asset value is not annualized.
- (5) Weighted average yield on debt and income producing equity securities is computed as (a) the annual stated interest rate or yield earned plus the net annual amortization of original issue discount and market discount on accruing debt divided by (b) total income producing equity securities and debt at fair value.
- (6) Includes commitments to portfolio companies for which funding has yet to occur.

Item 7. Management's Discussion And Analysis Of Financial Condition And Results Of Operations

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

OVERVIEW

We are a specialty finance company that is a closed-end, non-diversified management investment company incorporated in Maryland. We have elected to be regulated as a business development company under the Investment Company Act. We were founded on April 16, 2004 and were initially funded on June 23, 2004 and on October 8, 2004 completed our initial public offering (the "IPO").

Our investment objective is to generate both current income and capital appreciation through debt and equity investments. We invest primarily in first and second lien senior loans and long-term mezzanine debt, which in some cases may include an equity component, and, to a lesser extent, in equity investments in private U.S. middle market companies.

We are externally managed by Ares Capital Management, an affiliate of Ares Management LLC, an independent international investment management firm that manages investment funds. Ares Administration, an affiliate of Ares Management, provides the administrative services necessary for us to operate.

As a BDC, we are required to comply with certain regulatory requirements. For instance, we generally have to invest at least 70% of our total assets in "qualifying assets," including securities and indebtedness of private U.S. companies, cash, cash equivalents, U.S. government securities and high-quality debt investments that mature in one year or less.

We have qualified and elected to be treated as a RIC, under Subchapter M of the Code of 1986. To qualify as a RIC, we must, among other things, meet certain source-of-income and asset diversification requirements and timely distribute to our stockholders at least 90% of our investment company taxable income, as defined by the Code, for each year. Pursuant to these elections, we generally will not have to pay corporate level taxes on any income that we distribute to our stockholders.

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Presentation

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

Investments

Investment transactions are recorded on the trade date. Realized gains or losses are computed using the specific identification method. Investments for which market quotations are readily available are valued at such market quotations. Debt and equity securities that are not publicly traded or whose market price is not readily available are valued at fair value as determined in good faith by our board of directors based on the input of our management and audit committee. In addition, the board of directors currently receives input from independent valuation firms that have been engaged at the direction of the board to assist in the valuation of each portfolio investment at least once during a trailing 12 month period. The valuation process is conducted at the end of each fiscal quarter, with

approximately a quarter of our valuations of portfolio companies without market quotations subject to review by an independent valuation firm each quarter. The types of factors that the board may take into account in determining the fair value of our investments include, as relevant, the enterprise value of a portfolio company, the nature and realizable value of any collateral, the portfolio company's ability to make payments and its earnings and discounted cash flow, the markets in which the portfolio company does business, comparison to publicly traded securities and other relevant factors.

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

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

Our quarterly valuation process begins with each portfolio company or investment being initially valued by the investment professionals responsible for the portfolio investment in conjunction with our portfolio management team.

Preliminary valuation conclusions are then documented and discussed with our management.

The audit committee of our board of directors reviews these preliminary valuations, as well as the input of an independent valuation firm with respect to the valuations of approximately a quarter of our portfolio companies.

The board of directors discusses valuations and determines the fair value of each investment in our portfolio in good faith based on the input of our management and audit committee and independent valuation firms.

Interest Income Recognition

Interest income, adjusted for amortization of premium and accretion of discount, is recorded on an accrual basis. Discounts and premiums on securities purchased are accreted/amortized over the life of the respective security using the effective yield method. The amortized cost of investments represents the original cost adjusted for the accretion of discounts and amortization of premiums.

Loans are generally placed on non-accrual status when principal or interest payments are past due 30 days or more or when there is reasonable doubt that principal or interest will be collected. Accrued interest is generally reversed when a loan is placed on non-accrual status. Interest payments received on non-accrual loans may be recognized as income or applied to principal depending upon management's judgment. Non-accrual loans are restored to accrual status when past due principal and interest is paid and, in management's judgment, are likely to remain current. The Company may make exceptions to this if the loan has sufficient collateral value and is in the process of collection.

Payment-in-Kind Interest

The Company has loans in its portfolio that contain a payment-in-kind ("PIK") provision. The PIK interest, computed at the contractual rate specified in each loan agreement, is added to the principal balance of the loan and recorded as interest income. To maintain the Company's status as a RIC, this

non-cash source of income must be paid out to stockholders in the form of dividends even though the Company has not yet collected the cash.

Capital Structuring Service Fees and Other Income

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

Other income includes fees for asset management, consulting, loan guarantees, commitments and other services rendered by the Company to portfolio companies. Such fees are recognized as income when earned or the services are rendered.

Foreign Currency Translation

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

- (1) Market value of investment securities, other assets and liabilities at the exchange rates prevailing at the end of the day.
- (2) Purchases and sales of investment securities, income and expenses at the rates of exchange prevailing on the respective dates of such transactions.

Results of operations based on changes in foreign exchange rates are separately disclosed in the statement of operations. Foreign security and currency translations may involve certain considerations and risks not typically associated with investing in U.S. companies and U.S. government securities. These risks include, but are not limited to, currency fluctuation and revaluations and future adverse political, social and economic developments which could cause investments in their markets to be less liquid and prices more volatile than those of comparable U.S. companies or U.S. government securities.

Federal Income Taxes

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

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

current year annual taxable income will be in excess of estimated current year dividend distributions, the Company accrues an excise tax estimate, if any, on estimated excess taxable income.

In accordance with GAAP, book and tax basis differences relating to stockholder distributions and other permanent book and tax differences are reclassified between, distributions less than (in excess of) net investment income, accumulated net realized gain on sale of investments and capital in excess of par. In addition, the character of income and gains to be distributed is determined in accordance with income tax regulations that may differ from GAAP, as highlighted in Note 6 to our consolidated financial statements.

Certain of our wholly owned subsidiaries are subject to Federal and state income taxes.

Dividends

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

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

Use of Estimates in the Preparation of Financial Statements

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

Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The carrying value of the Company's financial instruments approximate fair value.

PORTFOLIO AND INVESTMENT ACTIVITY

	Year End December 31, (in millions, except number of companies, terms and percentages)		
	2007	2006	2005
New investments(1):			
New portfolio companies	\$ 1,091.6	\$ 812.5	\$ 464.9
Existing portfolio companies	256.0	297.5	64.0
Total new investments	1,347.6	1,110.0	528.9
Less:			
Investments exited	654.1	404.9	105.2
Net investments	\$ 693.5	\$ 705.1	\$ 423.7
New investments funded:			
New portfolio companies	\$ 876.8	\$ 736.1	\$ 440.3
Existing portfolio companies	253.0	292.1	64.0
Total	\$ 1,129.8	\$ 1,028.2	\$ 504.3
Principal amount of investments purchased:			
Senior term debt	\$ 886.7	\$ 726.4	\$ 339.3
Senior subordinated debt	187.1	249.4	76.6
Equity and other	177.6	111.7	88.4
Total	\$ 1,251.4	\$ 1,087.5	\$ 504.3
Principal amount of investments sold or repaid:			
Senior term debt	\$ 608.3	\$ 255.5	\$ 63.4
Senior subordinated debt	89.8	99.2	27.2
Equity and other	20.6	75.3	17.8
Total	\$ 718.7	\$ 430.0	\$ 108.4
Number of new investments(2)	47	54	31
Average new investment amount	\$ 28.7	\$ 19.0	\$ 17.1
Weighted average term for new investments (in months)	69	69	78
Weighted average yield of debt and income producing securities funded during the period(3)	11.60%	12.14%	10.50%
Weighted average yield of debt and income producing securities sold or repaid during the period(3)	11.72%	11.95%	11.29%

(1) New investments includes new agreements to fund revolving credit facilities or delayed draw loans.

(2) Number of new investments represents each commitment to a particular portfolio company.

(3) When we refer to the "weighted average yield" in this report, we compute it with respect to particular securities by taking the (a) annual stated interest rate or yield earned plus the net annual amortization of original issue discount and market discount earned on accruing debt included in such securities, and dividing it by (b) total income producing securities and debt at fair value included in such securities.

The Investment Adviser employs an investment rating system to categorize our investments. In addition to various risk management and monitoring tools, the Investment Adviser grades all investments on a scale of 1 to 4 no less frequently than quarterly. This system is intended to reflect the performance of the portfolio company business, the collateral coverage of the investments and other factors considered relevant. Under this system, investments with a grade of 4 involve the least amount of risk in our portfolio. The portfolio company is performing above

expectations and the trends and

risk factors are generally favorable, including a potential exit. Investments graded 3 involve a level of risk that is similar to the risk at the time of origination. The portfolio company is performing as expected and the risk factors are neutral to favorable. All new investments are initially graded 3. Investments graded 2 involve a portfolio company performing below expectations and indicates that the investments risk has increased materially since origination. The portfolio company may be out of compliance with debt covenants, however, payments are generally not more than 120 days past due. For investments graded 2, we increase procedures to monitor the portfolio company and we will write down the fair value of the investment if it is deemed to be impaired. An investment grade of 1 indicates that the portfolio company is performing materially below expectations and that the investment risk has substantially increased since origination. Most or all of the debt covenants are out of compliance and payments are substantially delinquent. Investments graded 1 are not anticipated to be repaid in full and we will reduce the fair market value of the investment to the amount we anticipate will be recovered. The Investment Adviser employs half-point increments to reflect underlying trends in portfolio company operating or financial performance, as well as the general outlook. As of December 31, 2007, the weighted average investment grade of the investments in our portfolio was 3.0 and two loans were past-due or on non-accrual. The weighted average investment grade of the investments in our portfolio as of December 31, 2006 was 3.0. The distribution of the grades of our portfolio companies as of December 31, 2007 and 2006 is as follows:

	December 31, 2007		December 31, 2006	
	Fair Value	Number of Companies	Fair Value	Number of Companies
Grade 1	\$ 13,927,200	1	\$ 504,206	1
Grade 2	115,584,881	4	14,206,419	1
Grade 3	1,581,810,870	68	1,189,399,643	56
Grade 4	62,878,890	3	31,711,568	2
	<u>1,774,201,841</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>\$ 1,235,821,836</u>	<u>60</u>

As of December 31, 2007, the weighted average yield of the debt and income producing equity securities in our portfolio was approximately 11.68%. As of December 31, 2007, the weighted average yield on our entire portfolio was 10.22%. The weighted average yield on our senior term debt, senior subordinated debt and income producing equity securities was 11.19%, 13.23% and 10.36%, respectively. Of the senior term debt, the weighted average yield attributable to first lien senior term debt and second lien senior term debt was 10.53% and 12.38%, respectively.

As of December 31, 2006, the weighted average yield of the debt and income producing equity securities in our portfolio was approximately 11.95%. As of December 31, 2006, the weighted average yield on our entire portfolio was 10.79%. The weighted average yield on our senior term debt, senior subordinated debt and income producing equity securities was 11.52%, 13.16% and 10.00%, respectively. Of the senior term debt, the weighted average yield attributable to first lien senior term debt and second lien senior term debt was 11.22% and 11.94%, respectively.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS*For the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005*

Operating results for the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005 are as follows:

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2007	2006	2005
Total Investment Income	\$ 188,873,228	\$ 120,020,908	\$ 41,850,477
Total Expenses	94,750,617	58,458,015	14,568,677
Net Investment Income Before Income Taxes	94,122,611	61,562,893	27,281,800
Income Tax Expense (Benefit), Including Excise Tax	(826,437)	4,931,288	158,000
Net Investment Income	94,949,048	56,631,605	27,123,800
Net Realized Gains	6,544,492	27,616,431	10,341,713
Net Unrealized Gains (Losses)	(10,661,076)	(14,552,714)	4,385,563
Net Increase in Stockholders' Equity Resulting From Operations	\$ 90,832,464	\$ 69,695,322	\$ 41,851,076

Investment Income

For the year ended December 31, 2007, total investment income increased \$68.9 million, or 57%, from the year ended December 31, 2006. Interest income from investments increased \$64.1 million, or 65%, to \$162.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2007 from \$98.3 million for the comparable period in 2006. The increase in interest income from investments was primarily due to the increase in the size of the portfolio. The average investments, at fair value, for the year increased to \$1.5 billion for the year ended December 31, 2007 from \$871.0 million for the comparable period in 2006. Of the approximately \$64.1 million in interest income from investments, non-cash PIK interest income was \$16.2 million. Capital structuring service fees increased \$2.0 million, or 12%, to \$18.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2007 from \$16.0 million for the comparable period in 2006. The increase in capital structuring service fees was primarily due to the increased amount of new investments made. The amount of new investments made increased to \$1.3 billion during the year ended December 31, 2007 from \$1.1 billion for the comparable period in 2006.

For the year ended December 31, 2006, total investment income increased \$78.2 million, or 187%, over the year ended December 31, 2005. Interest income from investments increased \$64.4 million, or 190%, to \$98.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2006 from \$34.0 million for the comparable period in 2005. The increase in interest income from investments was primarily due to the increase in the size of the portfolio. The average investments, at fair value, for the year increased from \$323.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2005 to \$871.0 million in the comparable period in 2006. Of the approximately \$64.4 million in interest income from investments, non-cash PIK interest income was \$6.3 million. Capital structuring service fees increased \$10.8 million, or 206%, to \$16.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2006 from \$5.2 million for the comparable period in 2005. The increase in capital structuring service fees was primarily due to the increased number of originations. The number of new investments increased from 31 during the year ended December 31, 2005 to 54 during the comparable period in 2006.

Operating Expenses

For the year ended December 31, 2007, total expenses increased \$36.3 million, or 62%, from the year ended December 31, 2006. Base management fees increased \$9.9 million, or 72%, to \$23.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2007 from \$13.6 million for the comparable period in 2006, primarily due to the increase in the size of the portfolio. Incentive fees related to pre-incentive fee net

investment income increased \$7.5 million, or 46%, to \$23.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2007 from \$16.1 million for the comparable period in 2006, primarily due to the increase in the size of the portfolio and the related increase in net investment income. Interest expense and credit facility fees increased \$18.3 million, or 99%, to \$36.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2007 from \$18.6 million for the comparable period in 2006, primarily due to the significant increase in the outstanding borrowings. The average outstanding borrowings during the year ended December 31, 2007 was \$567.9 million compared to average outstanding borrowings of \$262.4 million for the comparable period in 2006. The increase in total expenses was partially offset by the decline in incentive fees related to realized gains. There were no incentive fees related to realized gains during the year ended December 31, 2007 compared to \$3.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2006, due to gross unrealized depreciation offsetting net realized gains for the period. Net realized gains were \$6.6 million during the year ended December 31, 2007 whereas gross unrealized depreciation recognized was \$61.2 million.

For the year ended December 31, 2006, total expenses increased \$43.9 million, or 301%, over the year ended December 31, 2005. Base management fees increased \$8.5 million, or 165%, to \$13.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2006 from \$5.1 million for the comparable period in 2005, primarily due to the increase in the size of the portfolio. Incentive fees related to pre-incentive fee net investment income increased \$12.8 million, or 399%, to \$16.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2006 from \$3.2 million for the comparable period in 2005, primarily due to the increase in the size of the portfolio and the related increase in net investment income. Incentive fees related to realized gains increased \$2.5 million, or 252%, to \$3.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2006 from \$979,000 for the comparable period in 2005, primarily due to lower net realized gains and higher gross unrealized depreciation recognized during the year ended December 31, 2006 as compared to the year ended December 31, 2005. Net realized gains increased from \$10.3 million during the year ended December 31, 2005 to \$27.6 million during the year ended December 31, 2006. Gross unrealized depreciation increased from \$6.8 million during the year ended December 31, 2005 to \$8.9 million during the year ended December 31, 2006. Interest expense and credit facility fees increased \$17.1 million, or 1,175%, to \$18.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2006 from \$1.5 million for the comparable period in 2005, primarily due to the significant increase in the borrowings outstanding. The average outstanding borrowings during the year ended December 31, 2005 was \$17.9 million compared to average outstanding borrowings of \$262.4 million for the comparable period in 2006. The increase in interest expense and credit facility fees was also due to an increase in the amortization of debt issuance costs, which was \$1.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2006 compared to \$465,000 for the comparable period in 2005. The increase in the amortization of debt issuance costs was primarily due to additional debt issuance costs capitalized during the end of 2005 as a result of entering into the Revolving Credit Facility and increasing the borrowing capacity of the CP Funding Facility, and also due to additional debt issuance costs capitalized during the year ended December 31, 2006 related to the Debt Securitization.

Income Tax Expense, Including Excise Tax

The Company has qualified and elected and intends to continue to qualify and elect for the tax treatment applicable to RICs under Subchapter M of the Code, and, among other things, has made and intends to continue to make the requisite distributions to its stockholders which will relieve the Company from federal income taxes.

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

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For the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005 provisions of approximately \$100,000, \$570,000 and \$158,000 respectively, were recorded for federal excise tax.

Certain of our wholly owned subsidiaries are subject to federal and state income taxes. For the year ended December 31, 2007, we recorded a tax benefit of approximately \$900,000 for these subsidiaries. For the year ended December 31, 2006, we recorded a tax provision of \$4.4 million, for these subsidiaries. There was no provision recorded for the year ended December 31, 2005.

Net Realized Gains/Losses

During the year ended December 31, 2007, the Company had \$725.2 million of sales and repayments resulting in \$6.6 million of net realized gains. These sales and repayments included the \$133.0 million of loans sold to Ivy Hill. Net realized gains were comprised of \$16.2 million of gross realized gains and \$9.7 of gross realized losses. The most significant realized gains during the year ended December 31, 2007 were as a result of the sales and repayments of the investments in The GSI Group, Inc. ("GSI"), Varel Holdings, Inc. ("Varel") and Equinox SMU Partners LLC of \$6.2 million, \$4.0 million and \$3.5 million, respectively, offset by an \$8.8 million realized loss in Berkline/Benchcraft Holdings LLC ("Berkline").

During the year ended December 31, 2006, the Company had \$457.7 million of sales and repayments resulting in \$27.6 million of net realized gains. Net realized gains were comprised of \$27.7 million of gross realized gains and \$101,000 of gross realized losses. The most significant realized gains during the year ended December 31, 2006 were as a result of the sales and repayments of the investments in CICQ, LP ("CICQ"), United Site Services, Inc. and GCA Services Group, Inc. of \$18.6 million, \$4.5 million and \$1.0 million, respectively.

During the year ended December 31, 2005, the Company had \$118.8 million of sales and repayments resulting in \$10.3 million of net realized gains. Net realized gains were comprised of \$10.5 million of gross realized gains and \$145,000 of gross realized losses. The most significant realized gains during the period were as a result of the sales of the investments in Reef Holdings, Inc. ("Reef"), Esselte, Inc. and Billing Concepts, Inc. of \$4.8 million, \$2.4 million and \$1.8 million, respectively.

Net Unrealized Gains/Losses

For the year ended December 31, 2007, the Company's investments had net unrealized losses of \$11.5 million, which was comprised of \$52.5 million in unrealized appreciation, \$61.2 million in unrealized depreciation and \$2.8 million relating to the reversal of prior period net unrealized appreciation. The most significant changes in unrealized appreciation were \$27.2 million for the investment in Reflexite Corporation, \$5.6 million for the investment in GSI, \$4.0 million for the investment in Waste Pro, Inc., \$3.6 million for the investment in Daily Candy, Inc., \$3.2 million for the investment in Industrial Container Services, Inc., and \$3.0 million for the investment in Varel. The most significant changes in unrealized depreciation were \$10.5 million for the investment in MPBP Holdings, Inc., \$10.0 million for the investment in FirstLight Financial Corporation, \$8.0 million for the investment in Wear Me Apparel, LLC, \$7.2 million for the investment in Universal Trailer Corporation ("Universal"), \$5.6 million for the investment in Primis Marketing Group, Inc., \$5.0 million for the investment in Making Memories Wholesale, Inc. ("Making Memories") and \$3.2 million for the investment in WasteQuip, Inc. The reversal of prior period net unrealized appreciation was primarily due to the reversal for the appreciation of \$5.6 million for the investment in GSI and \$4.0 million for the investment in Varel offset by the reversal of depreciation of \$8.3 million for the investment in Berkline.

For the year ended December 31, 2006, the Company's investments had a decrease in net unrealized gains/losses of \$14.6 million, which was comprised of \$9.2 million in unrealized appreciation, \$8.9 million in unrealized depreciation and \$14.9 million relating to the reversal of prior period net

unrealized appreciation. The most significant changes in net unrealized appreciation were the unrealized appreciation for the investment in CICQ of \$4.0 million, the unrealized appreciation for the investment in Universal of \$3.4 million and the unrealized appreciation for the investment in Varel of \$1.0 million, offset by the unrealized depreciation of \$6.5 million for the investment in Berkline and unrealized depreciation of \$2.4 million for the investment in Making Memories. The reversal of the prior period net unrealized appreciation was primarily due to the reversal of the appreciation of \$13.3 million for the investment in CICQ.

For the year ended December 31, 2005, the Company's investments had an increase in net unrealized gains/losses of \$4.4 million, which was comprised of \$15.5 million in unrealized appreciation, \$6.8 million in unrealized depreciation and \$4.3 million relating to the reversal of prior period unrealized net appreciation. The most significant changes in net unrealized appreciation were unrealized appreciation of \$9.3 million for the investment in CICQ and \$4.8 million for the investment in Reef, offset by the unrealized depreciation in Berkline of \$1.8 million and Universal of \$3.4 million. The reversal of the prior period net unrealized appreciation was primarily due to the reversal of the appreciation of \$4.8 million for the investment in Reef which was realized during 2005.

Net Increase in Stockholders' Equity Resulting From Operations

Net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations for the year ended December 31, 2007 was \$90.8 million. Based on the weighted average shares outstanding during the year ended December 31, 2007, our net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations per common share was \$1.37 for the year ended December 31, 2007.

Net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations for the year ended December 31, 2006 was \$69.7 million. Based on the weighted average shares outstanding during the year ended December 31, 2006, our net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations per common share was \$1.61 for the year ended December 31, 2006.

Net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations for the year ended December 31, 2005 was \$41.9 million. Based on the weighted average shares outstanding during the year ended December 31, 2005, our net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations per common share was \$1.78 for the year ended December 31, 2005.

FINANCIAL CONDITION, LIQUIDITY, AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Since the Company's inception, the Company's liquidity and capital resources have been generated primarily from the net proceeds of our initial public offering and subsequent add-on public offerings of common stock, the Debt Securitization, advances from the CP Funding Facility and the Revolving Credit Facility, as well as cash flows from operations.

We expect to continue to raise new capital in order to fund our investment objectives by issuing both debt and equity securities in the future, by amending our Facilities or by recycling lower yielding investments. However, the terms of any future debt and equity issuances, amendments or our ability to recycle cannot be determined and there can be no assurances that the debt or equity markets or the ability to recycle will be available to us on terms we deem favorable or that our cost of capital will not increase.

Equity Offerings

The following table summarizes the total shares issued and proceeds we received net of underwriting and offering costs for the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005 (in millions, except per share amounts):

	<u>Shares issued</u>	<u>Offering price per share</u>	<u>Proceeds net of underwriting and offering costs</u>
August 2007 public offering	2.6	\$ 16.30	\$ 42.3
April 2007 public offering	15.5	\$ 17.97	267.2
February 2007 public offering	1.4	\$ 19.95	27.2
Underwriters over-allotment option related to December 2006 public offering	0.4	\$ 18.50	7.5
Total for the year ended December 31, 2007	20.0		\$ 344.2
December 2006 public offering	2.7	\$ 18.50	\$ 49.8
July 2006 public offering	10.8	\$ 15.67	162.0
Total for the year ended December 31, 2006	13.5		\$ 211.8
October 2005 public offering	14.5	\$ 15.46	\$ 213.5
March 2005 public offering	12.1	\$ 16.00	183.9
Total for the year ended December 31, 2005	26.6		\$ 397.4

Part of the proceeds from our public offerings in 2007, 2006 and 2005 were used to repay outstanding indebtedness. The remaining unused portions of the proceeds from our public offerings were used to fund investments in portfolio companies in accordance with our investment objective and strategies and market conditions.

As of December 31, 2007, total market capitalization for the Company was \$1.1 billion compared to \$994.4 million as of December 31, 2006.

Debt Capital Activities

Our debt obligations consisted of the following as of December 31, 2007 and 2006 (in millions):

	<u>December 31, 2007</u>	<u>December 31, 2006</u>
Revolving Credit Facility	\$ 282.5	\$ 193.0
CP Funding Facility	85.0	15.0
Debt Securitization	314.0	314.0
	\$ 681.5	\$ 522.0

The weighted average interest rate and weighted average maturity of all our outstanding borrowings as of December 31, 2007 were 5.66% and 6.9 years, respectively.

The weighted average interest rate and weighted average maturity of all our outstanding borrowings as of December 31, 2006 were 6.06% and 9.0 years, respectively.

The ratio of total debt outstanding to stockholders' equity as of December 31, 2007 was 0.60:1.00 compared to 0.61:1.00 as of December 31, 2006.

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A summary of our contractual payment obligations as of December 31, 2007 are as follows (in millions):

	Payments Due by Period				
	Total	Less than 1 year	1-3 years	4-5 years	After 5 years
Revolving Credit Facility	\$ 282.5	\$	\$ 282.5	\$	\$
CP Funding Facility	85.0	85.0			
Debt Securitization	314.0				314.0
Total Debt	\$ 681.5	\$ 85.0	\$ 282.5	\$	\$ 314.0

As of December 31, 2007, there was \$282.5 million outstanding under the Revolving Credit Facility (see Note 8 to the consolidated financial statements for more detail of the Revolving Credit Facility arrangement). The Revolving Credit Facility expires on December 28, 2010. In November 2007, we entered into an amendment to the Revolving Credit Facility to increase the aggregate principal amount of the Revolving Credit Facility from \$350.0 million to \$510.0 million. In March 2007, we entered into an amendment to the Revolving Credit Facility to increase the aggregate principal amount of the Revolving Credit Facility from \$250.0 million to \$350.0 million.

As of December 31, 2007, the available amount for borrowing under the CP Funding Facility was \$350.0 million (see Note 8 to the consolidated financial statements for more detail on the CP Funding Facility arrangement). As of December 31, 2007, there was \$85.0 million outstanding under the CP Funding Facility. The CP Funding Facility expires on October 8, 2008 unless extended prior to such date with the consent of the lenders.

In July 2006, through ARCC CLO, we completed a \$400.0 million debt securitization, which we refer to as the Debt Securitization, where approximately \$314.0 million principal amount of asset-backed notes (including \$50.0 million revolving notes, all of which were drawn down as of December 31, 2007) were issued to third parties and secured by a pool of middle market loans that have been purchased or originated by the Company. We retained approximately \$86.0 million of certain BBB and non-rated securities in the debt securitization. The blended pricing of the CLO Notes, excluding fees, is approximately 3-month LIBOR plus 34 basis points. The Debt Securitization is an on-balance-sheet financing for the Company. As of December 31, 2007, \$314.0 million in outstanding notes was outstanding under the Debt Securitization (not including the Retained Notes). The CLO Notes mature on December 20, 2019.

In July 2007, we received a long-term issuer rating of Baa3 from Moody's Investor Service and a long-term counterparty credit rating from Standard & Poor's Ratings Service of BBB, which we believe will provide access to broader financing sources and further diversify our capital raising alternatives.

OFF BALANCE SHEET ARRANGEMENTS

As of December 31, 2007, the Company had committed to make a total of approximately \$323.6 million of investments in various revolving senior secured loans. As of December 31, 2007, \$244.4 million was unfunded. Included within the \$323.6 million commitment in revolving secured loans is a commitment to issue up to \$11.0 million in standby letters of credit through a financial intermediary on behalf of certain portfolio companies. Under these arrangements, the Company would be required to make payments to third-party beneficiaries if the portfolio companies were to default on their related payment obligations. As of December 31, 2007, the Company had \$8.8 million in standby letters of credit issued and outstanding on behalf of the portfolio companies, of which no amounts were recorded as a liability. Of these letters of credit, \$1.3 million expire on June 10, 2013, \$500,000 expire on August 31, 2010, \$4.6 million expire on February 28, 2009 and \$2.4 million expire on September 30, 2008. These letters of credit may be extended under substantially similar terms for additional one-year

terms at the Company's option until the Revolving Credit Facility, under which the letters of credit were issued, matures on December 28, 2010.

As of December 31, 2007, the Company was subject to subscription agreements to fund up to \$111.8 million of equity commitments, substantially all at the discretion of the Company in private equity investment partnerships. As of December 31, 2007, \$1.3 million was funded to these partnerships.

As of December 31, 2006, the Company had committed to make a total of approximately \$174.0 million of investments in various revolving senior secured and subordinated loans. As of December 31, 2006, \$117.0 million was unfunded. Additionally, \$129.8 million of the \$174.0 million in commitments extended beyond the maturity date of our Revolving Credit Facility. Included within the \$174.0 million in commitments in revolving secured and subordinated loans were commitments to issue up to \$3.8 million in standby letters of credit through a financial intermediary on behalf of certain portfolio companies. Under these arrangements, the Company would be required to make payments to third-party beneficiaries if the portfolio companies were to default on their related payment obligations. As of December 31, 2006, the Company had \$2.8 million in standby letters of credit issued and outstanding on behalf of the portfolio companies, of which no amounts were recorded as a liability.

As of December 31, 2006, the Company was subject to a subscription agreement to fund up to \$10.0 million of equity commitments, substantially all at the discretion of the Company in a private equity investment partnership. As of December 31, 2006, \$225,000 was funded to this partnership.

We intend to fund these commitments and prospective investment opportunities with existing cash, through cash flow from operations before new investments, through borrowings under our Facilities or other long-term debt agreements, or through the sale or issuance of new equity capital.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

On February 7, 2008, the Company filed a registration statement with the SEC regarding a potential offering of rights to purchase common stock for a proposed maximum aggregate offering amount of \$350.0 million. On February 8, 2008, the Company filed a new shelf registration statement with the SEC covering the offer and sale, from time to time, of shares of our common stock, preferred stock, subscription rights to purchase shares of our common stock, debt securities or warrants representing rights to purchase shares of our common stock, preferred stock or debt securities, separately or as units, in one or more offerings up to a total offering price of \$600.0 million at prices and on terms determined by market conditions at the time of any offering made under the shelf registration statement. Neither of these registration statements have been declared effective by the SEC and the terms of a future offering, if any, would be described in an amendment to the registration statement, prospectus supplement or prospectus to be filed with the SEC.

Effective February 11, 2008, the Company amended its charter to increase the number of shares of common stock the Company is authorized to issue from 100,000,000 to 200,000,000 shares of common stock.

As of February 27, 2008, the Company has made \$136.1 million of new investments since December 31, 2007. In addition, as of February 27, 2008, the Company has an investment backlog and pipeline of approximately \$244.0 million and \$314.4 million, respectively. The Company expects to syndicate a portion of these amounts to third parties. The consummation of any of the investments in this backlog and pipeline depends upon, among other things, one or more of the following: satisfactory completion of our due diligence investigation of the prospective portfolio company, our acceptance of the terms and structure of such investment and the execution and delivery of satisfactory transaction documentation. The Company cannot assure you that we will make any of these investments.

Item 7A. Quantitative And Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

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

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate sensitivity refers to the change in earnings that may result from changes in the level of interest rates. Because we fund a portion of our investments with borrowings, our net investment income is affected by the spread between the rate at which we invest and the rate at which we borrow. As a result, there can be no assurance that a significant change in market interest rates will not have a material adverse effect on our net investment income.

As of December 31, 2007, approximately 36% of the investments at fair value in our portfolio were at fixed rates while approximately 52% were at variable rates and 12% were non-interest earning. In addition, the Debt Securitization, the CP Funding Facility and the Revolving Credit Facility all feature variable rates.

We regularly measure our exposure to interest rate risk. We assess interest rate risk and manage our interest rate exposure on an ongoing basis by comparing our interest rate sensitive assets to our interest rate sensitive liabilities. Based on that review, we determine whether or not any hedging transactions are necessary to mitigate exposure to changes in interest rates.

On January 7, 2005, we entered into a costless collar agreement in order to manage the exposure to changing interest rates related to the Company's fixed rate investments. The costless collar agreement was for a notional amount of \$20 million, has a cap of 6.5%, a floor of 2.72% and matures in 2008. The costless collar agreement allows us to receive an interest payment when the 3-month LIBOR exceeds 6.5% and obligates us to pay an interest payment when the 3-month LIBOR is less than 2.72%. The costless collar resets quarterly based on the 3-month LIBOR. As of December 31, 2007, the 3-month LIBOR was 4.70%. As of December 31, 2007, this agreement had no fair value.

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

Based on our December 31, 2007 balance sheet, the following table shows the impact on net income of base rate changes in interest rates assuming no changes in our investment and borrowing structure (in millions).

Basis Point Change	Interest Income	Interest Expense	Net Income
Up 300 basis points	\$ 24.4	\$ 20.4	\$ 4.0
Up 200 basis points	\$ 16.3	\$ 13.6	\$ 2.7
Up 100 basis points	\$ 8.1	\$ 6.8	\$ 1.3
Down 100 basis points	\$ (8.1)	\$ (6.8)	\$ (1.3)
Down 200 basis points	\$ (16.3)	\$ (13.6)	\$ (2.7)
Down 300 basis points	\$ (24.4)	\$ (20.4)	\$ (4.0)

Portfolio Valuation

Investments for which market quotations are readily available are valued at such market quotations. Debt and equity securities that are not publicly traded or whose market price is not readily available are valued at fair value as determined in good faith by our board of directors based on the input of our management and audit committee. In addition, the board of directors currently receives input from independent valuation firms that have been engaged at the direction of the board to assist

in the valuation of each portfolio investment at least once during a trailing 12 month period. The valuation process is conducted at the end of each fiscal quarter, with approximately a quarter of our valuations of portfolio companies subject to review by an independent valuation firm each quarter. The types of factors that the board may take into account in fair value valuation of our investments include, as relevant, the enterprise value of a portfolio company, the nature and realizable value of any collateral, the portfolio company's ability to make payments and its earnings and discounted cash flow, the markets in which the portfolio company does business, comparison to publicly traded securities and other relevant factors.

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

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

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

Our quarterly valuation process begins with each portfolio company or investment being initially valued by the investment professionals responsible for the portfolio investment in conjunction with our portfolio management team.

Preliminary valuation conclusions are then documented and discussed with our management.

The audit committee of our board of directors reviews these preliminary valuations, as well as the input of an independent valuation firm with respect to the valuations of approximately a quarter of our portfolio companies.

The board of directors discusses valuations and determines the fair value of each investment in our portfolio in good faith based on the input of our management and audit committee and independent valuation firms.

Item 8. Financial Statements And Supplementary Data

See the Index to Consolidated Financial Statements on page F-1.

Item 9. Changes In And Disagreements With Accountants On Accounting And Financial Disclosure

None.

Item 9A. Controls And Procedures

(a) *Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures.* The Company's management, with the participation of the Company's President and Chief Financial Officer, has evaluated the effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) of the Exchange Act) as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based upon such evaluation, the Company's President and Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective, as of December 31, 2007, to provide assurance that information that is required to be

disclosed by the Company in the reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized, and reported, within the time periods specified by the SEC's rules and forms. Disclosure controls and procedures, include without limitation, controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the Company in the reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to the Company's management, including its Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, or persons performing similar functions, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

(b) **Management's Report on Internal Controls over Financial Reporting.** The Company's management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) of the Exchange Act). Under the supervision and with the participation of management, including the President and Chief Financial Officer, the Company conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on the criteria established in *Internal Control Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). Based on the Company's evaluation under the framework in *Internal Control Integrated Framework*, management concluded that the Company's internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2007. The Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2007, has been audited by our independent registered public accounting firm, KPMG LLP, as stated in its report titled "Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm" on page F-2.

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

(c) **Attestation Report of the Registered Public Accounting Firm.** Our independent registered public accounting firm, KPMG LLP, has issued an attestation report on the Company's internal control over financial reporting, which is set forth under the heading "Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm" on page F-2.

(d) **Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting.** There have been no changes in our internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) of the Exchange Act) during our most recently completed fiscal quarter, that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

Item 9B. Other Information

None.

PART III

Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers And Corporate Governance

The information required by this item will be contained in the Company's definitive Proxy Statement for its 2008 Annual Stockholder Meeting, to be filed with the SEC within 120 days after December 31, 2007, and is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 11. Executive Compensation

The information required by this item will be contained in the Company's definitive Proxy Statement for its 2008 Annual Stockholder Meeting, to be filed with the SEC within 120 days after December 31, 2007, and is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 12. Security Ownership Of Certain Beneficial Owners And Management And Related Stockholder Matters

The information required by this item will be contained in the Company's definitive Proxy Statement for its 2008 Annual Stockholder Meeting, to be filed with the SEC within 120 days after December 31, 2007, and is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 13. Certain Relationships And Related Transactions, And Director Independence

The information required by this item will be contained in the Company's definitive Proxy Statement for its 2008 Annual Stockholder Meeting, to be filed with the SEC within 120 days after December 31, 2007, and is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 14. Principal Accountant Fees And Services

The information required by this item will be contained in the Company's definitive Proxy Statement for its 2008 Annual Stockholder Meeting, to be filed with the SEC within 120 days after December 31, 2007, and is incorporated herein by reference.

PART IV

Item 15. Exhibits And Financial Statement Schedules

The following documents are filed as part of this Annual Report:

1. Financial Statements See the Index to Consolidated Financial Statements on Page F-1.
2. Financial Statement Schedules None. We have omitted financial statement schedules because they are not required or are not applicable, or the required information is shown in the financial statements or notes to the financial statements.
3. Exhibits.

Number	Description
3.1	Articles of Amendment and Restatement(1)
3.2	Articles of Amendment*
3.3	Amended and Restated Bylaws(1)
4.1	Form of Stock Certificate(2)
10.1	Amended and Restated Investment Advisory and Management Agreement between Ares Capital Corporation and Ares Capital Management LLC(12)
10.2	Amended and Restated Administration Agreement between Ares Capital Corporation and Ares Operations LLC(13)
10.3	License Agreement between Ares Capital Corporation and Ares Management LLC(1)
10.4	Form of Indemnification Agreement between Ares Capital Corporation and directors and certain officers(2)
10.5	Form of Indemnification Agreement between Ares Capital Corporation and the members of the Ares Capital Management LLC investment committee(2)
10.6	Dividend Reinvestment Plan(1)
10.7	Custodian Agreement between the Company and U.S. Bank National Association(2)
10.8	Amended and Restated Agreement Regarding Repayment of Sales Load Advance by and between Ares Capital Corporation and Ares Capital Management LLC(4)
10.9	Purchase and Sale Agreement, dated as of November 3, 2004, by and among Ares Capital Corporation and Ares Capital CP Funding LLC(3)
10.10	Sale and Servicing Agreement, dated as of November 3, 2004, among Ares Capital CP Funding LLC, as borrower, Ares Capital Corporation as servicer, certain conduits and institutional lenders agented by Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC, U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee, and Lyon Financial Services, Inc. (D/B/A U.S. Bank Portfolio Services), as the backup servicer(3)
10.11	Amendment No. 2 to Sale and Servicing Agreement, dated as of April 8, 2005, among Ares Capital CP Funding LLC, Ares Capital Corporation, each of the Conduit Purchasers and Institutional Purchasers from time to time party thereto, each of the Purchaser Agents from time to time party thereto, Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC, as administrative agent, U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee, and Lyon Financial Services, Inc. (D/B/A U.S. Bank Portfolio Services), as the backup

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Number

Description

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- 10.12 Amendment No. 3 to Sale and Servicing Agreement, dated as of October 31, 2005, among Ares Capital CP Funding LLC, Ares Capital Corporation, each of the Conduit Purchasers and Institutional Purchasers from time to time party thereto, each of the Purchaser Agents from time to time party thereto, Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC, as administrative agent, U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee, and Lyon Financial Services, Inc. (D/B/A U.S. Bank Portfolio Services), as the backup servicer(9)
- 10.13 Amendment No. 4 to Sale and Servicing Agreement, dated as of November 14, 2005, among Ares Capital CP Funding LLC, Ares Capital Corporation, each of the Conduit Purchasers and Institutional Purchasers from time to time party thereto, each of the Purchaser Agents from time to time party thereto, Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC, as administrative agent, U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee, and Lyon Financial Services, Inc. (D/B/A U.S. Bank Portfolio Services), as the backup servicer(7)
- 10.14 Senior Secured Revolving Credit Agreement, dated as of December 28, 2005, among Ares Capital Corporation, the lenders party thereto and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Administrative Agent(8)
- 10.15 Sale and Servicing Agreement, dated as of July 7, 2006, among ARCC Commercial Loan Trust 2006, as issuer, ARCC CLO 2006 LLC, as trust depositor, Ares Capital Corporation, as originator and as servicer, U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee and as collateral administrator, Lyon Financial Services, Inc. (D/B/A U.S. Bank Portfolio Services), as backup servicer, and Wilmington Trust Company, as owner trustee(10)
- 10.16 Commercial Loan Sale Agreement, dated as of July 7, 2006, between Ares Capital Corporation and ARCC CLE 2006 LLC(10)
- 10.17 Indenture, dated as of July 7, 2006, between ARCC Commercial Loan Trust 2006 and U.S. Bank National Association(10)
- 10.18 Amended and Restated Trust Agreement, dated as of July 7, 2006, among ARCC CLO 2006 LLC, Wilmington Trust Company and U.S. Bank National Association(10)
- 10.19 Collateral Administration Agreement, dated as of July 7, 2006, among ARCC Commercial Loan Trust 2006, Ares Capital Corporation and U.S. Bank National Association(10)
- 10.20 Master Participation Agreement, dated as of July 7, 2006, between Ares Capital CP Funding LLC and Ares Capital Corporation(10)
- 10.21 Class A-1A VFN Purchase Agreement, dated as of July 7, 2006, among ARCC Commercial Loan Trust 2006, U.S. Bank National Association and other Class A-1A VFN noteholders party thereto(10)
- 10.22 Amendment No. 6 to Sale and Servicing Agreement, dated as of November 1, 2006, among Ares Capital CP Funding LLC, Ares Capital Corporation, each of the Conduit Purchasers and Institutional Purchasers from time to time party thereto, each of the Purchaser Agents from time to time party thereto, Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC, as administrative agent, U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee, and Lyon Financial Services, Inc. (D/B/A U.S. Bank Portfolio Services), as the backup servicer(11)

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- 10.23 Amendment No. 9 to Sale and Servicing Agreement, dated as of October 18, 2007, by and among Ares Capital CP Funding LLC, Ares Capital Corporation, each of the Conduit Purchasers and Institutional Purchasers from time to time party thereto, each of the purchaser agents from time to time party thereto, Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC, as administrative agent and purchaser agent with respect to Variable Funding Capital Company LLC as conduit purchaser, U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee, and Lyon Financial Services, Inc. (D/B/A U.S. Bank Portfolio Services), as the backup servicer(14)
- 10.24 First Amendment Agreement and Waiver, dated as of November 13, 2007, between Ares Capital Corporation as borrower, Ares Capital FL Holdings LLC, ARCC CIC Flex Corp., ARCC Imperial Corporation and ARCC Imperial LLC as subsidiary guarantors and BMO Capital Markets Financing, Inc., Merrill Lynch Capital Corporation, SunTrust Bank, Commerzbank AG, New York and Grand Cayman Branches, UBS Loan Finance LLC, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., Wachovia Bank, National Association and KBC Bank N.V. as Lenders(15)
- 11.1 Statement of Computation of Per Share Earnings(16)
- 14.1 Code of Conduct of Ares Capital Corporation*
- 21.1 Subsidiaries of the Company*
- 31.1 Certification by President pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 13a-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002*
- 31.2 Certification by Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 13a-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002*
- 32.1 Certification by President and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002*

-
- (1) Incorporated by reference to Exhibits (a)(3), (b)(2), (e) and (k)(3), as applicable, to the Company's pre-effective Amendment No. 1 to the Registration Statement under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, on Form N-2, filed on September 17, 2004.
- (2) Incorporated by reference to Exhibits (d), (j), (k)(4) and (k)(5), as applicable, to the Company's pre-effective Amendment No. 2 to the Registration Statement under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, on Form N-2, filed on September 28, 2004.
- (3) Incorporated by reference to Exhibits 10.1 and 10.2, as applicable, to the Company's Form 8-K dated November 3, 2004.
- (4) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit (k)(7) to the Company's pre-effective Amendment No. 2 to the Registration Statement under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, on Form N-2, filed on March 9, 2005.
- (5) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.2 to the Company's Form 8-K dated October 8, 2004.
- (6) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Form 8-K dated April 8, 2005.
- (7) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Form 8-K dated November 14, 2005.
- (8) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Form 8-K dated December 28, 2005.
- (9) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.12 to the Company's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005.

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- (10) Incorporated by reference to Exhibits 10.2 through 10.8, as applicable, to the Company's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2006.
- (11) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2006.
- (12) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Form 8-K dated June 2, 2006.
- (13) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2007.
- (14) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Form 8-K dated October 18, 2007.
- (15) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Form 8-K dated November 13, 2007.
- (16) Included in Note 4 to the Company's Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements filed herewith.

*
Filed herewith.

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors and Stockholders
Ares Capital Corporation:

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Ares Capital Corporation (and subsidiaries) (the Company) as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, including the consolidated schedule of investments as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, and the related consolidated statements of operations, stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2007. We also have audited the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2007, based on criteria established in Internal Control Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). The Company's management is responsible for these consolidated financial statements, for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying management's report on internal controls over financial reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements and an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement and whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audits of the consolidated financial statements included examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. Our audit of internal control over financial reporting included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audits also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinions.

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

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

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Ares Capital Corporation (and subsidiaries) as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2007, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Also in our opinion, Ares Capital Corporation (and subsidiaries) maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2007, based on criteria established in Internal Control Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

KPMG LLP

Los Angeles, CA
February 25, 2008

ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

	As of	
	December 31, 2007	December 31, 2006
ASSETS		
Investments at fair value (amortized cost of \$1,795,620,922 and \$1,245,758,040, respectively)		
Non-control/non-affiliate investments	\$ 1,167,200,429	\$ 991,529,464
Non-controlled affiliate company investments	430,370,575	244,292,372
Controlled affiliate company investments	176,630,837	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total investments at fair value	1,774,201,841	1,235,821,836
Cash and cash equivalents	21,142,004	91,538,878
Receivable for open trades	1,342,588	1,026,053
Interest receivable	23,730,490	10,121,104
Other assets	8,987,814	9,483,083
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total assets	\$ 1,829,404,737	\$ 1,347,990,954
	<hr/>	<hr/>
LIABILITIES		
Debt	\$ 681,528,056	\$ 482,000,000
Payable for open trades		60,000,000
Accounts payable and other liabilities	5,516,257	2,027,948
Management and incentive fees payable	13,041,060	12,485,016
Interest and facility fees payable	4,769,441	2,044,586
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total liabilities	\$ 704,854,814	\$ 558,557,550
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Commitments and contingencies (Note 7)		
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Common stock, par value \$.001 per share, 100,000,000 common shares authorized, 72,684,090 and 52,036,527 common shares issued and outstanding, respectively	72,683	52,037
Capital in excess of par value	1,136,598,754	785,192,573
Accumulated undistributed net investment income	7,004,815	7,038,469
Accumulated net realized gain on sale of investments	1,470,951	7,086,529
Net unrealized (depreciation) appreciation on investments	(20,597,280)	(9,936,204)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total stockholders' equity	1,124,549,923	789,433,404
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 1,829,404,737	\$ 1,347,990,954
	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET ASSETS PER SHARE	\$ 15.47	\$ 15.17
	<hr/>	<hr/>

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

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ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

	For the Year Ended December 31, 2007	For the Year Ended December 31, 2006	For the Year Ended December 31, 2005
INVESTMENT INCOME:			
From non-control/non-affiliated company investments:			
Interest from investments	\$ 135,144,798	\$ 85,641,997	\$ 30,360,311
Capital structuring service fees	12,473,580	14,633,691	3,314,440
Interest from cash & cash equivalents	2,946,386	2,419,540	1,457,830
Dividend income	1,880,286	2,227,843	744,818
Other income	1,054,494	553,020	256,467
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total investment income from non-control/non-affiliated company investments	153,499,544	105,476,091	36,133,866
From non-control affiliated company investments:			
Interest from investments	21,412,632	11,229,734	3,605,200
Capital structuring service fees	2,635,000	1,383,810	1,921,250
Dividend income	1,223,564		
Other income	1,131,466	230,207	190,161
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total investment income from non-control affiliated company investments	26,402,662	12,843,751	5,716,611
From control affiliated company investments:			
Interest from investments	5,875,375	1,458,918	
Capital structuring service fees	2,899,231		
Dividend income	121,074	242,148	
Other income	75,342		
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total investment income from control affiliated company investments	8,971,022	1,701,066	
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Total investment income	188,873,228	120,020,908	41,850,477
EXPENSES:			
Interest and credit facility fees	36,888,872	18,583,815	1,528,060
Base management fees	23,530,805	13,645,724	5,147,492
Incentive management fees	23,521,695	19,516,393	4,202,078
Professional fees	4,907,165	3,016,217	1,398,125
Insurance	1,081,199	866,218	630,513
Administrative	997,470	953,400	888,081
Depreciation	410,328	258,563	
Directors fees	280,000	250,169	309,536
Interest to the Investment Adviser		25,879	154,078
Other	3,133,083	1,341,637	310,714
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total expenses	94,750,617	58,458,015	14,568,677
NET INVESTMENT INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES	94,122,611	61,562,893	27,281,800
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Income tax expense, including excise tax	(826,437)	4,931,288	158,000
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NET INVESTMENT INCOME	94,949,048	56,631,605	27,123,800
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

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	For the Year Ended December 31, 2007	For the Year Ended December 31, 2006	For the Year Ended December 31, 2005
REALIZED AND UNREALIZED NET GAINS ON INVESTMENTS AND FOREIGN CURRENCIES:			
Net realized gains (losses):			
Non-control/non-affiliate company investments	2,753,857	27,569,148	10,345,991
Non-control affiliated company investments		47,283	(4,278)
Control affiliated company investment	3,808,759		