

HEARTLAND PAYMENT SYSTEMS INC
Form S-3
July 27, 2007
Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on July 27, 2007

Registration No. 333-

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

FORM S-3

REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

HEARTLAND PAYMENT SYSTEMS, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

22-3755714

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

90 Nassau Street

Princeton, New Jersey 08542

(609) 683-3831

(Address, including registrant's zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of principal executive offices)

Charles H.N. Kallenbach

General Counsel, Chief Legal Officer and Secretary

Heartland Payment Systems, Inc.

Princeton, New Jersey 08542

(609) 683-3831

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

COPIES TO:

Kevin T. Collins, Esq.

Jason M. Casella, Esq.

Heller Ehrman LLP

Times Square Tower

7 Times Square

New York, New York 10036

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public:

From time to time after the effectiveness of this registration statement.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents**CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

Title of each class of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price⁽¹⁾	Amount of registration⁽⁴⁾
Common Stock, par value \$0.001 ⁽²⁾	7,130,000	\$28.98	\$6,355
Common Stock, par value \$0.001 ⁽³⁾	57,500	\$28.98	\$62

(1) Estimated solely for the purpose of computing the amount of the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457 under the Securities Act.

(2) Consists of an aggregate of up to 7,130,000 shares of common stock that certain selling stockholders may sell from time to time.

(3) Consists of an aggregate of up to 57,500 shares of common stock that the Company may sell from time to time.

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate offering price has been estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(c) under the Securities Act of 1933 on the basis of the average of the high and low sale price of our common stock as reported on the New York Stock Exchange on July 25, 2007 which was \$28.98 per share.

The registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until the registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

Table of Contents

The information in this prospectus supplement is not complete and may be changed. A registration statement relating to these securities has been declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not an offer to sell these securities and they are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED JULY 27, 2007

PROSPECTUS

Shares

Heartland Payment Systems, Inc.

Common Stock

\$ per Share

We or certain selling stockholders may offer and sell shares of our common stock from time to time in amounts, at prices and on terms that will be determined at the time of any such offering.

Each time any securities are offered pursuant to this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement and attach it to this prospectus. The prospectus supplement will contain more specific information about the offering. You should read this prospectus, the information incorporated in this prospectus by reference and any prospectus supplement carefully before you invest in our common stock.

This prospectus may not be used to offer or sell securities without a prospectus supplement describing the method and terms of the offering.

Our common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol **HPY**. On July 26, 2007, the last reported sales price of our common stock was \$30.28.

Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. See **Risk Factors beginning on page 3.**

We and any selling stockholders may sell the securities to or through underwriters or dealers, directly to purchasers or through agents designated from time to time. For additional information on the methods of sale, you should refer to the section entitled **Plan of Distribution** in this prospectus. If any underwriters are involved in the sale of any securities with respect to which this prospectus is being delivered, the names of such underwriters and any applicable discounts or commissions and over-allotment options will be set forth in a prospectus supplement. The price to the public of such securities and the net proceeds we expect to receive from such sale will also be set forth in a prospectus supplement.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any other state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Prospectus dated _____, 2007

Table of Contents

You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, the related prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus distributed by or on behalf of us. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. Neither we nor the selling stockholders are making an offer of these securities in any state where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of this prospectus. This prospectus may not be used to consummate a sale of our securities unless it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement. The terms Heartland , we, us, and our refer to Heartland Payment Systems, Inc.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Summary</u>	Page 1
<u>Risk Factors</u>	3
<u>Special Note about Forward-Looking Statements</u>	10
<u>Dividend Policy</u>	11
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	11
<u>Price Range of our Common Stock</u>	11
<u>Description of Capital Stock</u>	12
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	16
<u>Selling Stockholders</u>	17
<u>Legal Matters</u>	17
<u>Experts</u>	17
<u>Information Incorporated by Reference</u>	18
<u>Additional Information</u>	18

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, using a shelf registration process. Under the shelf registration process, we and certain selling stockholders may sell common stock in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the common stock we and the selling stockholders may offer. Each time we or the selling stockholders sell any common stock under this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain more specific information about the terms of that offering. We may also add, update or change in the prospectus supplement any of the information contained in this prospectus. This prospectus, together with the applicable prospectus supplements and the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus, includes all material information relating to this offering. Please carefully read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with the additional information described below under Where You Can Find More Information before buying our common stock in this offering.

This prospectus contains and incorporates by reference market data, industry statistics and other data that have been obtained from, or compiled from, information made available by third parties. We have not independently verified their data.

HEARTLAND PAYMENT SYSTEMS, HEARTLAND PAYROLL COMPANY, HEARTLAND PAYDAY, hLEARNING, HPS, INSTAVIEW, DEBITEK and HPS EXCHANGE are among our registered trademarks. All other brand names or trademarks appearing in this prospectus or in any document incorporated by reference into this prospectus are the property of their respective holders.

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

This summary highlights selected information about our company and the common stock that we or the selling stockholders are offering. It does not contain all of the information that may be important to you. You should read this entire prospectus carefully, including the Risk Factors section and all of the documents incorporated herein by reference.

Heartland Payment Systems, Inc.

Our Business

Bank Card Payment Processing

Our primary business is to provide bank card payment processing services to merchants in the United States. This involves facilitating the exchange of information and funds between merchants and cardholders financial institutions, providing end-to-end electronic payment processing services to merchants, including merchant set-up and training, transaction authorization and electronic draft capture, clearing and settlement, merchant accounting, merchant assistance and support and risk management. We also provide additional services to our merchants, such as payroll processing, gift and loyalty programs, and paper check processing, and we sell and lease point-of-sale devices and supplies.

According to The Nilson Report, in 2006 we were the 6th largest card acquirer in the United States ranked by purchase volume, which consists of both credit and debit Visa and MasterCard transactions. This ranking represented 2.3% of the total bank card processing market. At March 31, 2007, we provided our bank card payment processing services to approximately 139,150 active merchant locations, referred to as bank card merchants in this document, throughout the United States. In 2006, 2005 and 2004, our bank card processing volume was \$43.3 billion, \$33.7 billion and \$25.0 billion, respectively. Our bank card processing volume for the three months ended March 31, 2007 was \$11.2 billion, a 21.0% increase from the \$9.2 billion processed during the three months ended March 31, 2006.

Our bank card processing revenue is recurring in nature, as we typically enter into three-year service contracts that, in order to qualify for the agreed-upon pricing, require the achievement of agreed bank card processing volume minimums from our merchants. Most of our revenue is from gross processing fees, which are primarily a combination of a percentage of the dollar amount of each Visa and MasterCard transaction we process plus a flat fee per transaction. We pay interchange fees to card issuing banks and dues and assessments to Visa and MasterCard, and we retain the remainder. On average, our gross revenue from processing transactions equals approximately \$2.43 for every \$100 we process.

We sell and market our bank card payment processing services through a nationwide direct sales force consisting of approximately 1,480 sales professionals as of March 31, 2007. Through this sales force we establish a local sales and servicing presence, which we believe provides for enhanced referral opportunities and helps mitigate merchant attrition. We compensate our sales force solely through commissions, based upon the performance of their merchant accounts. We believe that our sales force and our experience and knowledge in providing payment processing services to small- and medium-size merchants gives us the ability to effectively evaluate and manage the payment processing needs and risks that are unique to these merchants. In 2006, our sales force generated over 55,000 bank card merchant applications and installed almost 51,000 new bank card merchants. In 2005, our sales force generated over 51,000 bank card merchant applications and installed almost 45,000 new bank card merchants. The number of total merchants installed during the three months ended March 31, 2007 grew by approximately 15.7% to 14,577 new total merchants installed, compared to 12,602 new total merchants installed during the three months ended March 31, 2006.

We have developed significant expertise in industries that we believe present relatively low risks as the customers are generally present and the products or services are generally delivered at the time the transaction is processed. These industries include restaurants, brick and mortar retailers, lodging establishments, automotive repair shops, convenience and liquor stores and professional service providers. As of March 31, 2007, approximately 32.0% of our bank card merchants were restaurants, approximately 20.9% were brick and mortar retailers,

Table of Contents

approximately 10.5% were convenience and liquor stores, approximately 8.6% were automotive sales, repair shops and gas stations, approximately 7.2% were professional service providers and approximately 3.9% were lodging establishments.

Since our inception, we have developed a number of proprietary Internet-based systems to increase our operating efficiencies and distribute our processing and merchant data to our three main constituencies: our sales force, our merchant base and our customer service staff. In 2001, we began providing authorization and data capture services to our merchants through our own front-end processing system, HPS Exchange. In 2005, we began providing clearing, settlement and merchant accounting services through our own internally developed back-end processing system,

Passport. Passport enables us to customize these services to the needs of our Relationship Managers and merchants. We completed converting substantially all of our bank card merchants to Passport during the second quarter of 2006.

During the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2006 and the quarter ended March 31, 2007, approximately 53%, 64% and 71%, respectively, of our transactions were processed through HPS Exchange, which has decreased our operating costs per transaction. At March 31, 2007, approximately 135,900 of our 139,150 total bank card merchants were processing on Passport. With the conversion to Passport in 2006, our internally developed systems are providing substantially all aspects of a merchant's processing needs. Previously, we relied on third party vendors for some of these services including bank card authorization and data capture services, settlement and merchant accounting services.

Payroll Processing Services

Through our wholly-owned subsidiary, Heartland Payroll Company, we operate a full-service nationwide payroll processing service. At March 31, 2007 we processed payroll for 5,046 customers throughout the United States, increases of 19.7% and 66.4%, respectively, from 4,216 payroll customers at December 31, 2006 and 3,032 payroll customers at March 31, 2006.

Our nationwide direct sales force also sells our payroll processing services solely on a commission basis. In 2006, our direct sales force received additional training regarding our payroll processing products and increased its focus on selling these products. In 2006, 2005 and 2004, we installed 3,140, 1,117 and 988 new payroll processing customers, respectively.

Our total merchants, which we define as bank card processing merchants plus payroll customers, increased to 144,196 at March 31, 2007. This represents increases of 4.9% and 20.7%, respectively, over the 137,416 total merchants at December 31, 2006 and 119,432 total merchants at March 31, 2006.

Corporate Information

Our principal executive offices are located at 90 Nassau Street, Princeton, New Jersey 08542 and our telephone number is (609) 683-3831. Our website address is www.heartlandpaymentsystems.com. Information contained on our website is not a prospectus and does not constitute part of this prospectus.

The Offering

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission utilizing a shelf registration process. Under this process, we and certain selling stockholders may sell up to an aggregate of 7,187,500 shares of common stock. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the common stock that we or the selling stockholders may offer. Each time we or the selling stockholders offer to sell common stock under this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement containing specific information about the terms of that offering. A prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. To the extent that any information we provide in a prospectus supplement is inconsistent with information in this prospectus, the information in the prospectus supplement will modify or supersede this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with the additional information described under the headings "Where You Can Find More Information" and "Incorporation of Information by Reference."

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

This offering involves a high degree of risk. You should consider carefully the risks and uncertainties described below and the other information in this prospectus and other SEC filings before you decide whether to purchase shares of our common stock. The risks described below are not the only ones facing our company. Additional risks that are not currently known to us or that we currently believe to be immaterial may also adversely affect our business. If any of the events contemplated by the following discussion of risks should occur, our business, results of operations and financial condition could suffer significantly. As a result, the market price of our common stock could decline, and you may lose all or part of the money you paid to buy our common stock.

Risks Relating to Our Business

The payment processing industry is highly competitive and we compete with certain firms that are larger and that have greater financial resources. Such competition could increase, which would adversely influence our prices to merchants, and as a result, our operating margins.

The market for payment processing services is highly competitive. Other providers of payment processing services have established a sizable market share in the small- and medium-size merchant processing sector. Maintaining our historic growth will depend on a combination of the continued growth in electronic payment transactions and our ability to increase our market share. According to The Nilson Report, we accounted for approximately 2.3% of the \$1.9 trillion of total purchase volume processed by all bank card acquirers in 2006. This competition may influence the prices we are able to charge. If the competition causes us to reduce the prices we charge, we will have to aggressively control our costs in order to maintain acceptable profit margins. In addition, some of our competitors are financial institutions, subsidiaries of financial institutions or well-established payment processing companies, including First Data Corporation, Bank of America Corporation, Global Payments, Inc., Fifth Third Bank, Chase Paymentech Solutions and Nova Information Systems, Inc., a subsidiary of U.S. Bancorp. Our competitors that are financial institutions or subsidiaries of financial institutions do not incur the costs associated with being sponsored by a bank for registration with the card networks and can settle transactions more quickly for their merchants than we can for ours. These competitors have substantially greater financial, technology, management and marketing resources than we have. This may allow our competitors to offer more attractive fees to our current and prospective merchants, or other products or services that we do not offer. This could result in a loss of customers, greater difficulty attracting new customers, and a reduction in the price we can charge for our services.

We are subject to the business cycles and credit risk of our merchants, which could negatively impact our financial results.

A recessionary economic environment could have a negative impact on our merchants, which could, in turn, negatively impact our financial results, particularly if the recessionary environment disproportionately affects some of the market segments that represent a larger portion of our bank card processing volume, like restaurants. If our merchants make fewer sales of their products and services, we will have fewer transactions to process, resulting in lower revenue. In addition, we have a certain amount of fixed and semi-fixed costs, including rent, processing contractual minimums and salaries, which could limit our ability to quickly adjust costs and respond to changes in our business and the economy.

In a recessionary environment our merchants could also experience a higher rate of business closures, which could adversely affect our business and financial condition. During the last recession, we experienced a slowdown in the rate of same-store sales growth and an increase in business closures. In the event of a closure of a merchant, we are unlikely to receive our fees for any transactions processed by that merchant in its final month of operation.

While we service a broad range of merchants, restaurants represent a significant portion of our merchant base. The failure rate of restaurants is typically high, which increases our merchant attrition and reject losses. A reduction in consumer spending, particularly at restaurants, would further increase our rate of merchant attrition and reject losses.

Table of Contents

We have faced, and will in the future face, chargeback liability when our merchants refuse to or cannot reimburse chargebacks resolved in favor of their customers, and reject losses when our merchants go out of business. We cannot accurately anticipate these liabilities, which may adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

In the event a billing dispute between a cardholder and a merchant is not resolved in favor of the merchant, the transaction is normally charged back to the merchant and the purchase price is credited or otherwise refunded to the cardholder. If we or our clearing banks are unable to collect such amounts from the merchant's account, or if the merchant refuses or is unable, due to closure, bankruptcy or other reasons, to reimburse us for the chargeback, we bear the loss for the amount of the refund paid to the cardholder. The risk of chargebacks is typically greater with those merchants that promise future delivery of goods and services rather than delivering goods or rendering services at the time of payment. We may experience significant losses from chargebacks in the future. Any increase in chargebacks not paid by our merchants may adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

Reject losses arise from the fact that we collect our fees from our merchants on the first day after the monthly billing period. This results in the build-up of a substantial receivable from our customers, which significantly exceeds the receivables of any of our competitors which assess their fees on a daily basis. If a merchant has gone out of business during the billing period, we may be unable to collect such fees. In addition, if our sponsor bank is unable, due to system disruption or other failure, to collect our fees from our merchants, we would face a substantial loss.

We incurred charges relating to chargebacks and reject losses of \$1,941,000, \$1,206,000, \$939,000 and \$492,000 in the years ended December 31, 2006, 2005 and 2004 and the quarter ended March 31, 2007, respectively.

We have faced, and will in the future face, merchant fraud, which could have an adverse effect on our operating results and financial condition.

We have potential liability for fraudulent bank card transactions initiated by merchants. Merchant fraud occurs when a merchant knowingly uses a stolen or counterfeit bank card or card number to record a false sales transaction, processes an invalid bank card or intentionally fails to deliver the merchandise or services sold in an otherwise valid transaction. Examples of merchant fraud we have faced include a manager of a franchised motel who applied for a merchant account that proved to be a second account for that motel, and processed duplicate charges in his office, and an antique repair service owner who continued accepting deposits on cards for repairs, but stopped doing the repairs. We have established systems and procedures designed to detect and reduce the impact of merchant fraud, but we cannot assure you that these measures are or will be effective. It is possible that incidents of fraud could increase in the future. Failure to effectively manage risk and prevent fraud would increase our chargeback liability. Increases in chargebacks could have an adverse effect on our operating results and financial condition.

Unauthorized disclosure of merchant and cardholder data, whether through breach of our computer systems or otherwise, could expose us to liability and protracted and costly litigation.

We collect and store sensitive data about merchants, including names, addresses, social security numbers, driver's license numbers and checking account numbers. In addition, we maintain a database of cardholder data relating to specific transactions, including bank card numbers, in order to process the transactions and for fraud prevention. Any significant incidents of loss of cardholder data by us or our merchants could result in significant fines and sanctions by Visa, MasterCard or governmental bodies, which could have a material adverse effect upon our financial position and/or operations. In addition, a significant breach could result in our being prohibited from processing transactions for Visa and MasterCard.

Table of Contents

Our computer systems could be penetrated by hackers and our encryption of data may not prevent unauthorized use. In this event, we may be subject to liability, including claims for unauthorized purchases with misappropriated bank card information, impersonation or other similar fraud claims. We could also be subject to liability for claims relating to misuse of personal information, such as unauthorized marketing purposes. These claims also could result in protracted and costly litigation. In addition, we could be subject to penalties or sanctions from the Visa and MasterCard networks.

Although we generally require that our agreements with our service providers who have access to merchant and customer data include confidentiality obligations that restrict these parties from using or disclosing any customer or merchant data except as necessary to perform their services under the applicable agreements, we cannot assure you that these contractual measures will prevent the unauthorized use or disclosure of data. In addition, our agreements with financial institutions require us to take certain protective measures to ensure the confidentiality of merchant and consumer data. Any failure to adequately enforce these protective measures could result in protracted and costly litigation.

Increased merchant attrition that we cannot anticipate or offset with increased bank card processing volume or new accounts would cause our revenues to decline.

We experience attrition in merchant bank card processing volume resulting from several factors, including business closures, transfers of merchants' accounts to our competitors and account closures that we initiate due to heightened credit risks relating to, or contract breaches by, merchants. During 2006, 2005 and 2004, we experienced average annual attrition of 10% to 12% of total bank card processing volume, but 2006 attrition was higher than 2004 and 2005. Substantially all of our processing contracts may be terminated by either party on relatively short notice. We cannot predict the level of attrition in the future and therefore it could increase. Increased attrition in merchant bank card processing volume may have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. If we are unable to establish accounts with new merchants or otherwise increase our bank card processing volume in order to counter the effect of this attrition, our revenues will decline.

We rely on a bank sponsor, which has substantial discretion with respect to certain elements of our business practices, in order to process bank card transactions. If this sponsorship is terminated and we are unable to secure new bank sponsors, we will not be able to conduct our business.

Substantially all of our revenue is derived from Visa and MasterCard bank card transactions. Because we are not a bank, we are not eligible for membership in the Visa and MasterCard networks and are, therefore, unable to directly access the bank card networks, which are required to process Visa and MasterCard transactions. Visa and MasterCard operating regulations require us to be sponsored by a bank in order to process bank card transactions. We are currently registered with Visa and MasterCard through KeyBank, National Association, referred to as KeyBank in this document, which has maintained that registration since 1999. If we or our bank sponsor fail to comply with the applicable requirements of the Visa and MasterCard bank card networks, Visa or MasterCard could suspend or terminate our registration. The bank card networks frequently amend their requirements. If we or our sponsoring bank were unable to comply with any such amended requirements, Visa or MasterCard could suspend or terminate our registration. On occasion, we have received notices of non-compliance, which have typically related to excessive chargebacks for a merchant or data security failures on the part of a merchant. The termination of our registration, or any changes in the Visa or MasterCard rules that would impair our registration, could require us to stop providing Visa and MasterCard payment processing services, which would make it impossible for us to conduct our business. In addition, if our sponsorship is terminated and we are unable to secure another bank sponsor or sponsors, we will not be able to process Visa and MasterCard transactions. Furthermore, our agreement with KeyBank gives it substantial discretion in approving certain aspects of our business practices, including our solicitation, application and qualification procedures for merchants, the terms of our agreements with merchants and our customer service levels. KeyBank's discretionary actions under this agreement could be detrimental to our operations.

Table of Contents

Current or future bank card network rules and practices could adversely affect our business.

We are registered with the Visa and MasterCard networks through our bank sponsor as an Independent Sales Organization with Visa and a Member Service Provider with MasterCard. In addition, we are a sales agent for Discover and American Express. The rules of the bank card networks are set by their boards, which may be strongly influenced by member banks and, in the case of Discover and American Express, by the card issuers, and some of those banks and issuers are our competitors with respect to these processing services. Many banks directly or indirectly sell processing services to merchants in direct competition with us. These banks could attempt, by virtue of their membership in the network, to alter the networks' rules or policies to the detriment of non-members like us. Discover and American Express also sell processing services for their cardholders to merchants. The bank card networks or issuers who maintain our registrations or arrangements or the current bank card network or issuer rules allowing us to market and provide payment processing services may not remain in effect. The termination of our registration or our status as an Independent Sales Organization or Member Service Provider, or any changes in card network or issuer rules that limit our ability to provide payment processing services, could have an adverse effect on our bank card processing volumes, revenues or operating costs. In addition, if we were precluded from processing Visa and MasterCard bank card transactions, we would lose substantially all of our revenues.

Our systems and our third-party providers' systems may fail due to factors beyond our control, which could interrupt our service, cause us to lose business and increase our costs.

We depend on the efficient and uninterrupted operation of our computer network systems, software, data center and telecommunications networks, as well as the systems of third parties. Our systems and operations or those of our third-party providers could be exposed to damage or interruption from, among other things, fire, natural disaster, power loss, telecommunications failure, unauthorized entry and computer viruses. Our property and business interruption insurance may not be adequate to compensate us for all losses or failures that may occur. Defects in our systems or those of third parties, errors or delays in the processing of payment transactions, telecommunications failures or other difficulties could result in:

loss of revenues;

loss of merchants, although our contracts with merchants do not expressly provide a right to terminate for business interruptions;

loss of merchant and cardholder data;

harm to our business or reputation;

exposure to fraud losses or other liabilities;

negative publicity;

additional operating and development costs; and/or

diversion of technical and other resources.

Adverse conditions in markets in which we obtain a substantial amount of our bank card processing volume, such as our largest markets of California, New York, Texas and Florida, could negatively affect our results of operations.

Adverse economic or other conditions in California, New York, Texas and Florida would negatively affect our revenue and could materially and adversely affect our results of operations. In December 2006, merchants in California represented 14.0%, in New York represented 6.8%, in

Edgar Filing: HEARTLAND PAYMENT SYSTEMS INC - Form S-3

Texas represented 4.6%, and in Florida represented 4.5% of our total bank card processing volume. As a result of this geographic concentration of our merchants in these markets, we are exposed to the risks of downturns in these local economies and to other local conditions, which could adversely affect the operating results of our merchants in these markets.

Table of Contents

If we lose key personnel or are unable to attract additional qualified personnel as we grow, our business could be adversely affected.

We are dependent upon the ability and experience of a number of our key personnel who have substantial experience with our operations, the rapidly changing payment processing industry and the selected markets in which we offer our services. It is possible that the loss of the services of one or a combination of our senior executives or key managers, particularly Robert O. Carr, our Chief Executive Officer, would have an adverse effect on our operations. Our success also depends on our ability to continue to attract, manage and retain other qualified middle management and technical and clerical personnel as we grow. We may not continue to attract or retain such personnel.

If we are unable to attract and retain qualified sales people, our business and financial results may suffer.

Unlike many of our competitors who rely on Independent Sales Organizations or salaried salespeople and telemarketers, we rely on a direct sales force whose compensation is entirely commission-based. Through our direct sales force of approximately 1,480 Relationship Managers, Servicing Managers and sales managers as of March 31, 2007, we seek to increase the number of merchants using our products and services. We intend to significantly increase the size of our sales force. Our success partially depends on the skill and experience of our sales force. If we are unable to retain and attract sufficiently experienced and capable Relationship Managers, our business and financial results may suffer.

If we cannot pass increases in bank card network interchange fees along to our merchants, our operating margins will be reduced.

We pay interchange fees set by the bank card networks to the card issuing bank for each transaction we process involving their bank cards. From time to time, the bank card networks increase the interchange fees that they charge payment processors and the sponsoring banks. At its sole discretion, our sponsoring bank has the right to pass any increases in interchange fees on to us and it has consistently done so in the past. We are allowed to, and in the past we have been able to, pass these fee increases along to our merchants through corresponding increases in our processing fees. However, if we are unable to do so in the future, our operating margins will be reduced.

Any acquisitions or portfolio buyouts that we make could disrupt our business and harm our financial condition.

We expect to evaluate potential strategic acquisitions of complementary businesses, products or technologies. We may not be able to successfully finance or integrate any businesses, products or technologies that we acquire. Furthermore, the integration of any acquisition may divert management's time and resources from our core business and disrupt our operations. To date, we have not acquired any significant companies or products. We may spend time and money on projects that do not increase our revenue. To the extent we pay the purchase price of any acquisition in cash, it would reduce our cash reserves, and to the extent the purchase price is paid with our stock, it could be dilutive to our stockholders. While we from time to time evaluate potential acquisitions of businesses, products and technologies, and anticipate continuing to make these evaluations, we have no present understandings, commitments or agreements with respect to any acquisitions.

We also regularly buy out the residual commissions of our Relationship Managers and sales managers, at multiples that typically amount to 2 to 2 1/2 years of such commissions. If the merchants included in the portfolios we purchase do not generate sufficient incremental margin after the purchase, we will not achieve a positive return on the cash expended.

Table of Contents

Governmental regulations designed to protect or limit access to consumer information could adversely affect our ability to effectively provide our services to merchants.

Governmental bodies in the United States and abroad have adopted, or are considering the adoption of, laws and regulations restricting the transfer of, and safeguarding, non-public personal information. For example, in the United States, all financial institutions must undertake certain steps to ensure the privacy and security of consumer financial information. While our operations are subject to certain provisions of these privacy laws, we have limited our use of consumer information solely to providing services to other businesses and financial institutions. We limit sharing of private consumer information to that necessary to complete the transactions on behalf of the consumer and the merchant and to that permitted by federal and state laws. In connection with providing services to the merchants and financial institutions that use our services, we are required by regulations and contracts with our merchants to provide assurances regarding the confidentiality and security of private consumer information. These contracts require periodic audits by independent companies regarding our compliance with industry standards and best practices established by regulatory guidelines. The compliance standards relate to our infrastructure, components, and operational procedures designed to safeguard the confidentiality and security of private consumer information shared by our clients with us. Our ability to maintain compliance with these standards and satisfy these audits will affect our ability to attract and maintain business in the future. The cost of such systems and procedures may increase in the future and could adversely affect our ability to compete effectively with other similarly situated service providers.

Our operating results are subject to seasonality, which could result in fluctuations in our quarterly net income.

We have experienced in the past, and expect to continue to experience, seasonal fluctuations in our revenues as a result of consumer spending patterns. Historically our revenues have been strongest in our second and third quarters, and weakest in our first quarter.

We may become subject to additional U.S., state or local taxes that cannot be passed through to our merchants, which could negatively affect our results of operations.

Companies in the payment processing industry, including us, may become subject to taxation in various tax jurisdictions on their net income or revenues. Application of these taxes is an emerging issue in our industry and taxing jurisdictions have not yet adopted uniform positions on this topic. If we are required to pay additional taxes and are unable to pass the tax expense through to our merchants, our costs would increase and our net income would be reduced.

We face uncertainty about additional financing for our future capital needs, which may prevent us from growing our business.

We may need to raise additional funds to finance our future capital needs, including the construction of our new service center and operating expenses. We may need additional financing earlier than we anticipate if we:

expand faster than our internally generated cash flow can support;

purchase portfolio equity (the portion of our commissions that we have committed to our sales force for as long as the merchant processes with us, which we may buy out at an agreed multiple) from a large number of Relationship Managers or sales managers;

add new merchant accounts faster than expected;

need to reduce pricing in response to competition; or

acquire complementary products, businesses or technologies.

If we raise additional funds through the sale of equity securities, these transactions may dilute the value of our outstanding common stock. We may also decide to issue securities, including debt securities, that have rights,

Table of Contents

preferences and privileges senior to our common stock. We may be unable to raise additional funds on terms favorable to us or at all. If financing is not available or is not available on acceptable terms, we may be unable to fund our future needs. This may prevent us from increasing our market share, capitalizing on new business opportunities or remaining competitive in our industry.

Risks Related to This Offering

Our executive officers, directors and principal stockholders have substantial control over our business, which could lead to conflicts of interest with other stockholders and could limit your ability to influence corporate matters.

At June 30, 2007, our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Robert O. Carr, beneficially owned approximately 27.7% of our outstanding common stock. Mr. Carr and our other executive officers and directors, including certain of our directors who are affiliated with Greenhill Capital Partners, L.P. and its affiliated investment funds, and LLR Equity Partners, L.P. and its affiliated investment fund, collectively beneficially owned approximately 60.5% of our outstanding common stock. Greenhill Capital Partners, L.P. and its affiliated investment funds and LLR Equity Partners, L.P. and its affiliated investment fund owned in the aggregate approximately 26.2% of our outstanding common stock. Various officers, directors, partners and members of Greenhill Capital Partners, L.P. and its affiliated investment funds and LLR Equity Partners, L.P. and its affiliated investment fund are members of our board of directors. Accordingly, these stockholders, acting individually or together, will have significant influence over all matters requiring stockholder approval, including the election and removal of directors and any merger, consolidation or sale of all or substantially all of our assets. In addition, these stockholders may dictate the day-to-day management of our business. This concentration of ownership could limit your ability to influence corporate matters and could have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control, or impeding a merger or consolidation, takeover or other business combination or a sale of all or substantially all of our assets. In addition, the significant concentration of stock ownership may adversely affect the trading price of our common stock due to investors' perception that conflicts of interest may exist or arise.

Future sales of our common stock, or the perception in the public markets that these sales may occur, could depress our stock price.

Sales of substantial amounts of our common stock in the public market, or the perception in the public markets that these sales may occur, could cause the market price of our common stock to decline. This could also impair our ability to raise additional capital through the sale of our equity securities. At June 30, 2007, we had 37,443,754 shares of our common stock outstanding. Of such outstanding shares, approximately 21,406,354 shares are restricted securities, all of which shares may be sold in transactions consistent with the volume limitations of Rule 144 of the Securities Act of 1933. In addition, as of June 30, 2007, we had outstanding options to purchase a total of 3,704,143 shares under our 2000 Incentive Stock Option Plan and our 2002 PEPSHares Plan, of which 3,171,856 were vested. The shares underlying these outstanding options are registered on a Form S-8 registration statement and may be sold freely upon exercise of the options. The number of shares of our common stock available to trade could cause the market price of our common stock to decline. In addition to the adverse effect a price decline could have on holders of our common stock, such a decline could impede our ability to raise capital or to make acquisitions through the issuance of additional shares of our common stock or other equity securities.

The holders of approximately 21,331,929 shares of our common stock have rights to demand the registration of their shares or include their shares in registration statements that we may file on our behalf or on behalf of other stockholders. Of the shares with registration rights, an aggregate of approximately 21,121,928 shares are owned by Mr. Carr and other executive officers and directors and Greenhill Capital Partners, L.P. and its affiliated investment funds, and LLR Equity Partners, L.P. and its affiliated investment funds.

By exercising their registration rights and selling a large number of shares, holders with registration rights could cause the price of our common stock to decline, which could impede our ability to make acquisitions

Table of Contents

through the issuance of additional shares of our common stock. Furthermore, if we file a registration statement to offer additional shares of our common stock and have to include shares held by those holders, it could impair our ability to raise needed capital by depressing the price at which we could sell our common stock.

Provisions in our charter documents and Delaware law could discourage a takeover you may consider favorable or could cause current management to become entrenched and difficult to replace.

Provisions in our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, in our bylaws and under Delaware law could make it more difficult for other companies to acquire us, even if doing so would benefit our stockholders. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws contain the following provisions, among others, which may inhibit an acquisition of our company by a third party:

advance notification procedures for matters to be brought before stockholder meetings;

a limitation on who may call stockholder meetings;

a prohibition on stockholder action by written consent; and

the ability of our board of directors to issue up to 10 million shares of preferred stock without a stockholder vote.

If any shares of preferred stock are issued that contain an extraordinary dividend or special voting power, a change in control could be impeded.

We are also subject to provisions of Delaware law that prohibit us from engaging in any business combination with any interested stockholder, meaning, generally, that a stockholder who beneficially owns more than 15% of our stock cannot acquire us for a period of three years from the date this person became an interested stockholder unless various conditions are met, such as approval of the transaction by our board of directors. Any of these restrictions could have the effect of delaying or preventing a change in control.

We may be unable or we may decide not to pay dividends on our common stock at a level anticipated by shareholders, which could depress our stock price.

The payment of dividends on our common stock in the future will be at the discretion of our board of directors and will depend on, among other factors, our earnings, stockholders' equity, cash position and financial condition. No assurance can be given that we will be able to or will choose to pay any dividends in the foreseeable future.

SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

We have made forward-looking statements in this prospectus that are based on our management's beliefs and assumptions and on information currently available to our management. Forward-looking statements include the information concerning our possible or assumed future results of operations, business strategies, financing plans, competitive position, industry environment, potential growth opportunities, the effects of future regulation and the effects of competition. Forward-looking statements include all statements that are not historical facts and can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as the words believe, expect, anticipate, intend, plan, estimate or similar expressions.

Forward-looking statements involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Actual results may differ materially from those expressed in the forward-looking statements. We do not have any intention or obligation to update forward-looking statements after we distribute this prospectus.

You should understand that many important factors, in addition to those discussed elsewhere in this prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus, could cause our results to differ materially from those expressed in the forward-looking statements. These factors include, without limitation, our competitive environment, the business cycles and credit risks of our customers, merchant attrition, chargeback

Table of Contents

liability, problems with our bank sponsor, our reliance on other bank card payment processors, our inability to pass increased interchange fees along to our merchants, economic conditions, the unauthorized disclosure of merchant data, government regulation and system failures.

DIVIDEND POLICY

On August 1, 2006, our board of directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.025 per share of common stock, which was paid on September 15, 2006 to our stockholders of record as of August 25, 2006. On November 2, 2006, our board of directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.025 per share of common stock, which was paid on December 15, 2006 to our stockholders of record as of November 24, 2006. On February 12, 2007, our board of directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.05 per share of common stock, which was paid on March 15, 2007 to our stockholders of record as of February 23, 2007. On May 3, 2007, our board of directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.05 per share of common stock, which was paid on June 15, 2007 to stockholders of record as of May 25, 2007.

The declaration of any other dividends and, if declared, the amount of any such dividend, will be subject to our actual future earnings and capital requirements and to the discretion of our board of directors. Our board of directors will take into account such matters as general business conditions, our financial results, capital requirements, contractual, legal and regulatory restrictions on the payment of dividends by us to our shareholders or by our subsidiaries to us, and such other factors as our board of directors may deem relevant.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We will retain broad discretion over the use of the net proceeds from the sale of our common stock offered hereby. Except as described in any prospectus supplement, we currently anticipate using the net proceeds from the sale of our common stock hereby for general corporate purposes and the costs of this offering.

We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of shares by the selling stockholders.

PRICE RANGE OF OUR COMMON STOCK

Our common stock, \$0.001 par value per share, our only class of common equity, has been quoted on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol HPY since August 16, 2005. The following table sets forth the high and low sales prices per share of our common stock for the periods indicated, as reported on the New York Stock Exchange:

	High	Low
Year ending December 31, 2007		
Third Quarter (through July 26, 2007)	\$ 31.75	\$ 27.96
Second Quarter	\$ 29.60	\$ 23.66
First Quarter	\$ 29.01	\$ 23.40
Year ending December 31, 2006		
Fourth Quarter	\$ 29.44	\$ 24.08
Third Quarter	\$ 29.02	\$ 23.12
Second Quarter	\$ 29.90	\$ 24.38
First Quarter	\$ 25.62	\$ 21.22
Five months ended December 31, 2005		
Fourth Quarter	\$ 26.50	\$ 20.77
Third Quarter	\$ 27.73	\$ 22.20

As of July 26, 2007, the closing sale price of our common stock as reported on the New York Stock Exchange was \$30.28 per share. As of July 26, 2007, there were 58 holders of record of our common stock, not including beneficial owners of shares registered in nominee or street name on such date.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

The following description of our capital stock does not purport to be complete and is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws, which we have included as exhibits to our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006, filed with the SEC on March 9, 2007.

Authorized Capitalization

Our capital structure consists of 100,000,000 authorized shares of common stock and 10,000,000 shares of undesignated preferred stock. As of June 30, 2007, an aggregate of 37,443,754 shares of common stock were issued and outstanding and no shares of preferred stock were issued and outstanding.

Common Stock

The holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote per share on any matter to be voted upon by stockholders. The holders of our common stock are entitled to dividends as our board of directors may declare from time to time from legally available funds subject to the preferential rights of the holders of any shares of our preferred stock that we may issue in the future.

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation does not provide for cumulative voting in connection with the election of directors. Accordingly, directors will be elected by a plurality of the shares voting once a quorum is present. No holder of our common stock will have any preemptive right to subscribe for any shares of capital stock issued in the future.

Upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs, the holders of our common stock are entitled to share, on a pro rata basis, all assets remaining after payment to creditors and subject to prior distribution rights of any shares of preferred stock that we may issue in the future. All of the outstanding shares of common stock are, and the shares offered by us in this offering will be, fully paid and non-assessable.

Preferred Stock

No shares of our preferred stock are currently outstanding. Under our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, our board of directors, without any further action by our stockholders, is authorized to issue shares of preferred stock in one or more classes or series. The board may fix the rights, preferences and privileges of the preferred stock, along with any limitations or restrictions, including voting rights, dividend rights, conversion rights, redemption privileges and liquidation preferences of each class or series of preferred stock. The preferred stock could have voting or conversion rights that could adversely affect the voting power or other rights of holders of our common stock. The issuance of preferred stock could also have the effect, under certain circumstances, of delaying, deferring or preventing a change of control of our company. We currently have no plans to issue any shares of preferred stock.

Registration Rights

On August 2, 2005, we amended and restated the shareholders' agreement with the holders of our convertible redeemable preferred stock and some of the holders of our common stock to eliminate all of the provisions of the shareholders' agreement, except for the provisions relating to the registration rights. Currently, the holders of approximately 21,331,929 shares of common stock are entitled to registration rights with respect to their shares. Any group of holders of at least 10% of the securities with registration rights can require us to register all or part of their shares at any time, so long as the thresholds in the shareholders' agreement are met with respect to the amount of securities to be sold. After we have completed three such registrations we are no longer subject to these demand registration rights. In addition, the holders of securities with registration rights

Table of Contents

may also require us to include their shares in future registration statements that we file, subject to reduction at the option of the underwriters of such an offering. Upon any of these registrations, these shares will be freely tradable in the public market without restriction. We are obligated under the shareholders' agreement to pay the registration expenses incurred in connection with any registration, qualification or compliance relating to the exercise of a holder's registration rights. Additionally, we have agreed to indemnify and hold harmless holders (and their affiliates) of registrable securities covered by a registration statement against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, or to contribute to payments the holders (or their affiliates) may be required to make because of any of those liabilities.

Anti-Takeover Effects Of Certain Provisions Of Delaware Law And Our Amended And Restated Certificate Of Incorporation And Bylaws

Effect of Delaware Anti-Takeover Statute

We are subject to Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, an anti-takeover law. In general, Section 203 prohibits a Delaware corporation from engaging in any business combination with any interested stockholder for a period of three years following the date that the stockholder became an interested stockholder, unless:

prior to that date, the board of directors of the corporation approved either the business combination or the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder;

upon consummation of the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder, the interested stockholder owned at least 85% of the voting stock of the corporation outstanding at the time the transaction commenced, excluding for purposes of determining the number of shares outstanding those shares owned by persons who are directors and also officers and by excluding employee stock plans in which employee participants do not have the right to determine confidentially whether shares held subject to the plan will be tendered in a tender or exchange offer; or

on or subsequent to that date, the business combination is approved by the board of directors of the corporation and authorized at an annual or special meeting of stockholders, and not by written consent, by the affirmative vote of at least 66²/3% of the outstanding voting stock that is not owned by the interested stockholder.

Section 203 defines "business combination" to include the following:

any merger or consolidation involving the corporation and the interested stockholder;

any sale, transfer, pledge or other disposition of 10% or more of the assets of the corporation involving the interested stockholder;

subject to certain exceptions, any transaction that results in the issuance or transfer by the corporation of any stock of the corporation to the interested stockholder;

any transaction involving the corporation that has the effect of increasing the proportionate share of the stock of any class or series of the corporation beneficially owned by the interested stockholder; or

the receipt by the interested stockholder of the benefit of any loans, advances, guarantees, pledges or other financial benefits provided by or through the corporation.

In general, Section 203 defines an interested stockholder as an entity or person beneficially owning 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation and any entity or person affiliated with or controlling or controlled by any of these entities or persons.

Table of Contents

Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaw Provisions

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws include provisions that may have the effect of discouraging, delaying or preventing a change in control or an unsolicited acquisition proposal that a stockholder might consider favorable, including a proposal that might result in the payment of a premium over the market price for the shares held by stockholders.

Supermajority Voting

Our amended and restated certification of incorporation requires the approval of the holders of at least 66²/3% of our combined voting power to effect certain amendments to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation. Our bylaws may be amended by either a majority of the board of directors, or the holders of 66²/3% of our voting stock. Holders of 66²/3% of our voting stock may remove, for cause, any director or the entire board of directors.

Authorized but Unissued or Undesignated Capital Stock

Our authorized capital stock consists of 100,000,000 shares of common stock and 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock. No preferred stock is currently designated. As of June 30, 2007, we have outstanding 37,443,754 shares of common stock. The authorized but unissued (and in the case of preferred stock, undesignated) stock may be issued by the board of directors in one or more transactions. In this regard, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation grants the board of directors broad power to establish the rights and preferences of authorized, unissued and undesignated preferred stock. The issuance and designation of shares of preferred stock pursuant to the board of directors' authority described above could decrease the amount of earnings and assets available for distribution to holders of common stock and adversely affect the rights and powers, including voting rights, of such holders and may have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control. The board of directors does not currently intend to seek stockholder approval prior to any issuance of preferred stock, unless otherwise required by law.

Special Meetings of Stockholders

Our bylaws provide that special meetings of our stockholders may be called only by our Chairman of the board of directors or by our Chief Executive Officer. Robert O. Carr currently serves as our Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer.

No Stockholder Action by Written Consent

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws provide that an action required or permitted to be taken at any annual or special meeting of our stockholders may only be taken at a duly called annual or special meeting of stockholders. This provision prevents stockholders from initiating or effecting any action by written consent, and thereby taking actions opposed by the board.

Notice Procedures

Our bylaws establish advance notice procedures with regard to all stockholder proposals to be brought before meetings of our stockholders, including proposals relating to the nomination of candidates for election as directors, the removal of directors and amendments to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation or bylaws. These procedures provide that notice of such stockholder proposals must be received in writing by our Secretary not less than 150 days prior to the meeting. The notice must include a brief description of the business desired to be brought before the meeting, the name and address of the stockholder proposing such business and the class and number of shares owned by such stockholder.

Table of Contents

Limitation of Director Liability

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation limits the liability of our directors (in their capacity as directors but not in their capacity as officers) to us or our stockholders to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law. Specifically, our directors will not be personally liable for monetary damages for breach of a director's fiduciary duty as a director, except for liability:

for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to us or our stockholders;

for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;

under Section 174 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, which relates to unlawful payments of dividends or unlawful stock repurchases or redemptions; or

for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit.

Indemnification Arrangements

Our bylaws provide that our directors and officers shall be indemnified and provide for the advancement to them of expenses in connection with actual or threatened proceedings and claims arising out of their status as such to the fullest extent permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law. We have entered into indemnification agreements with each of our directors and executive officers that provide them with rights to indemnification and expense advancement to the fullest extent permitted under the Delaware General Corporation Law.

Listing

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol HPY.

Transfer Agent And Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is Registrar and Transfer Company.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We or any selling stockholders may sell common stock under this prospectus in public offerings:

through one or more underwriters or dealers;

through other agents; or

directly to purchasers.

The common stock that we or any selling stockholders may sell under this prospectus may be priced:

at a fixed public offering price or prices, which may be changed from time to time;

at market prices prevailing at the times of sale;

at prices calculated by a formula based on prevailing market prices;

at negotiated prices; or

in a combination of any of the above pricing methods.

If we or any selling stockholders use underwriters for an offering, they will acquire the common stock for their own account and may resell them from time to time in one or more transactions at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. The obligations of the underwriters to purchase the common stock will be subject to the conditions set forth in the applicable underwriting agreement. We or any selling stockholders may offer the common stock to the public through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters or by underwriters without a syndicate. Subject to certain conditions, the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of the common stock offered by the prospectus supplement. The public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may change from time to time. Only underwriters named in a prospectus supplement are underwriters of the common stock offered by that prospectus supplement.

If this registration statement is used for an at the market offering as defined in Rule 415(a)(4) under the Securities Act, the amount of common stock registered under this registration statement for such an offering may not exceed 10% of the aggregate market value of our outstanding voting stock as proscribed by Rule 415(a)(4) of the Securities Act.

We or any selling stockholders may also sell common stock directly or through agents. We or any selling stockholders will name any agent involved in an offering and we will describe any commissions we or any selling stockholders will pay the agent in the applicable prospectus supplement. Unless the prospectus supplement states otherwise, our agents, or any agent of any selling stockholder, will act on a best-efforts basis.

We or any selling stockholders may authorize agents or underwriters to solicit offers by certain types of institutional investors to purchase common stock from us or any such selling stockholders at the public offering price set forth in the prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. We will describe the conditions of these contracts and the commissions we or any selling stockholders must pay for solicitation of these contracts in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Edgar Filing: HEARTLAND PAYMENT SYSTEMS INC - Form S-3

We or any selling stockholders may provide agents and underwriters with indemnification against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or contribution with respect to payments that the agents or underwriters may make with respect to such liabilities. Underwriters or agents may engage in transactions with us, or perform services for us, in the ordinary course of business. We or any selling stockholders may also use underwriters or agents with whom we or any such selling stockholders have a material relationship. We will describe the nature of any such relationship in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

An underwriter may engage in overallotment, stabilizing transactions, short covering transactions and penalty bids in accordance with Regulation M under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Overallotment involves sales in excess of the offering size, which create a short position. Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum. Short covering transactions involve purchases of the securities in the open market after the distribution is completed to cover short positions. Penalty bids permit the underwriter to reclaim a selling concession from a dealer when the securities originally sold by the dealer are purchased in a covering transaction to cover short positions. These activities may cause the price of our securities to be higher than it would otherwise be on the open market. The underwriter may discontinue any of these activities at any time.

In compliance with guidelines of the NASD, Inc., or the NASD, the maximum commission or discount to be received by any NASD member or independent broker-dealer may not exceed 8% of the aggregate amount of the securities offered by this prospectus; however, it is anticipated that the maximum commission or discount to be received in any particular offering of securities will be significantly less than this amount.

SELLING STOCKHOLDERS

We are registering for resale pursuant to this prospectus up to 7,130,000 shares of our common stock held by selling stockholders.

The following table presents certain information regarding the beneficial ownership of our common stock outstanding as of June 30, 2007 to be sold in this offering by the selling stockholders. Please see **Certain Relationships and Related Transactions** section of the proxy statement for our annual meeting of stockholders held on May 3, 2007 which is incorporated by reference into this prospectus for a description of material relationships between us and the selling stockholders.

The selling stockholders acquired the shares being sold by the selling stockholders in a number of offering transactions in which the shares were sold, all of which were completed prior to the filing of the registration statement containing this prospectus, including:

directly from us as founder stock;

directly from us in a private placement;

from one of our executive officers in a private sale; or

upon exercise of options.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the common stock offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Heller Ehrman LLP, New York, New York.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements and management's report on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting incorporated in this prospectus by reference from the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006 have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports, which are incorporated herein by reference (which reports (1) express an unqualified opinion on the financial statements and include an explanatory paragraph regarding the Company's change in method of determining which items are treated as cash and cash equivalents,

Table of Contents

and adoption of Statement of Financial Accounting Standard (SFAS) No. 123(R) Share-Based Payment on January 1, 2006), (2) express an unqualified opinion on management's assessment regarding the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, and (3) express an unqualified opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, and have been so incorporated in reliance upon the reports of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

INFORMATION INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference into this prospectus, which means we may disclose important information by referring you to other documents filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is deemed to be a part of this prospectus, except for any information superseded by other information contained in, or incorporated by reference into, this prospectus.

The following documents filed by us with the SEC are hereby incorporated by reference in this prospectus:

our current reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on March 22, 2007, May 4, 2007 and June 12, 2007;

our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006, filed with the SEC on March 9, 2007;

our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the three months ended March 31, 2007, filed with the SEC on May 9, 2007;

the description of our common stock contained in our registration statement on Form 8-A, filed with the SEC and all amendments or reports filed by us for the purpose of updating those descriptions.

All reports and other documents subsequently filed by us pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus and prior to the termination of this offering shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus and to be part hereof from the dates of filing of such reports and other documents; provided, however, that we are not incorporating any information furnished under either Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of any current report on Form 8-K.

We hereby undertake to provide without charge to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom a copy of this prospectus is delivered, upon written or oral request of any such person, a copy of any and all of the information that has been or may be incorporated by reference in this prospectus, other than exhibits to such documents, unless the exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference into the documents that this prospectus incorporates. Requests for such copies should be directed to our corporate secretary, at the following address or by calling the following telephone number:

Heartland Payment Systems, Inc.

90 Nassau Street

Princeton, New Jersey 08542

Attention: Charles H.N. Kallenbach (609) 683-3831

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington, D.C., under the Securities Act, a registration statement on Form S-3 relating to the common stock we are offering. This prospectus does not contain all of the information included in the registration statement and its exhibits and schedules thereto. For further information with respect to us and the shares we are offering pursuant to this prospectus, you should refer to the registration statement and its exhibits and schedules. Statements contained in this prospectus as to the

Table of Contents

contents of any contract, agreement or other document referred to are not necessarily complete, and you should refer to the copy of that contract or other document filed as an exhibit to the registration statement. You may read or obtain a copy of the registration statement at the commission's public reference room at 100 F Street, NE, Room 2521, Washington, D. C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the public reference room by calling the commission at 1-800-SEC-0330. The commission maintains a website that contains reports, proxy information statements and other information regarding registrants that file electronically with the commission. The address of this website is <http://www.sec.gov>.

Our internet address is www.heartlandpaymentsystems.com. We make available free of charge, on or through our web site, annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the SEC. Information contained on our web site is not a prospectus and does not constitute part of this prospectus.

Table of Contents

Heartland Payment Systems, Inc.

Common Stock

—
PROSPECTUS

—
, 2007

Table of Contents**Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution**

The following table sets forth the various expenses, other than underwriting discounts and commissions, payable by the Registrant in connection with the sale of common stock being registered:

SEC registration fee	\$ 6,417
NASD filing fee	*
NYSE filing fee	*
Blue sky fees and expenses	*
Printing and engraving expenses	*
Legal fees and expenses	*
Accounting fees and expenses	*
Transfer agent and registrar fees	*
Miscellaneous fees and expenses	*
 Total	 \$ *

* To be provided by subsequent amendment

Each of the amounts set forth above, other than the SEC registration fee and the NASD filing fee, is an estimate.

Item 15. Indemnification of Director and Officers

Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law authorizes a court to award or a corporation's board of directors to grant indemnification to directors and officers in terms sufficiently broad to permit such indemnification under certain circumstances for liabilities (including reimbursement for expenses incurred) arising under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act). Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. Article IX of the Registrant's Bylaws provides for mandatory indemnification of its directors and officers and permissible indemnification of employees and other agents to the maximum extent permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law. The Registrant's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation (the Certificate of Incorporation) provides that, pursuant to Delaware law, its directors shall not be liable for monetary damages for breach of the directors' fiduciary duty as directors to the Company or its stockholders. This provision in the Certificate of Incorporation does not eliminate the directors' fiduciary duty, and in appropriate circumstances equitable remedies such as injunctive or other forms of non-monetary relief will remain available under Delaware law. In addition, each director will continue to be subject to liability for breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the Company for acts or omissions not in good faith or involving intentional misconduct, for knowing violations of law, for actions leading to improper personal benefit to the director, and for payment of dividends or approval of stock repurchases or redemptions that are unlawful under Delaware law. The provision also does not affect a director's responsibilities under any other law, such as the federal securities laws or state or federal environmental laws. The Registrant has entered into Indemnity Agreements with its officers and directors, a form of which is filed as Exhibit 10.26 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006 and incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. The Indemnification Agreements provide the Registrant's officers and directors with further indemnification to the maximum extent permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law. The Registrant maintains directors and officers liabilities insurance.

Table of Contents**Item 16. Exhibits**

(a) Exhibits

Exhibit Number	Description
1.1*	Form of Underwriting Agreement
4.1	Form of Common Stock Certificate (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Registrant's registration statement on Form S-1/A (No. 333-118073) filed on June 28, 2005.
5.1**	Opinion of Heller Ehrman LLP
23.1	Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP
23.2**	Consent of Heller Ehrman LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1)
24.1	Power of Attorney (included on the signature page of the Registration Statement)

* To be filed by the Registrant as an amendment to the registration statement or as an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K and incorporated herein by reference.

** To be filed by the Registrant as an amendment to the registration statement.

Item 17. Undertakings

The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

- (1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:
 - (i) To include any prospectus required by section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;
 - (ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement.
 - (iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

Provided, however, that: Paragraphs (1)(i), (1)(ii) and (1)(iii) of this section do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrant pursuant to section 13 or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.
- (2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

- (3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

II-2

Table of Contents

- (4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser:
- (i) If the registrant is relying on Rule 430B:
 - (A) Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and
 - (B) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5), or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii), or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date; or
 - (ii) If the registrant is subject to Rule 430C, each prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) as part of a registration statement relating to an offering, other than registration statements relying on Rule 430B or other than prospectuses filed in reliance on Rule 430A, shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the date it is first used after effectiveness. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such first use, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such date of first use.
- (5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities:

The undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

- (i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;
- (ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;
- (iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant; and

Table of Contents

(iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.

The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to section 13(a) or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that:

- (1) For purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, the information omitted from the form of prospectus filed as part of this registration statement in reliance upon Rule 430A and contained in a form of prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(1) or (4) or 497(h) under the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of this registration statement as of the time it was declared effective.
- (2) For the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each post-effective amendment that contains a form of prospectus shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

Table of Contents**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Princeton, State of New Jersey, on July 26, 2007.

HEARTLAND PAYMENT SYSTEMS, INC.

By: */s/* ROBERT O. CARR
Robert O. Carr
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that each individual whose signature appears below hereby constitutes and appoints each of Robert O. Carr and Robert H.B. Baldwin, Jr., and each of them individually with full power of substitution and resubstitution, his or her true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agent, with full powers to each of them to sign for us, in our named and in the capacities indicated below, the Registration Statement on Form S-3 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and any and all amendments to said Registration statement (including post-effective amendments), and any registration statement filed pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, in connection with the registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, of equity securities of the Registrant, and to file or cause to be filed the same, with all exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in connection therewith, as fully to all intents and purposes as each of them might or could do in person, and hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys, and each of them, or their substitute or substitutes, shall do or cause to be done by virtue of this Power of Attorney. This power of attorney may be executed in counterparts and all capacities to sign any and all amendments.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

SIGNATURE	TITLE	DATE
<i>/s/</i> ROBERT O. CARR Robert O. Carr	Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)	July 26, 2007
<i>/s/</i> ROBERT H.B. BALDWIN, JR. Robert H.B. Baldwin, Jr.	Chief Financial Officer (Principal Accounting and Financial Officer)	July 26, 2007
<i>/s/</i> SCOTT L. BOK Scott L. Bok	Director	July 26, 2007
<i>/s/</i> MITCHELL L. HOLLIN Mitchell L. Hollin	Director	July 26, 2007
<i>/s/</i> ROBERT H. NIEHAUS Robert H. Niehaus	Director	July 26, 2007

Table of Contents

SIGNATURE	TITLE	DATE
<i>/s/</i> MARC J. OSTRO Marc J. Ostro	Director	July 26, 2007
<i>/s/</i> JONATHAN PALMER Jonathan Palmer	Director	July 26, 2007
<i>/s/</i> GEORGE F. RAYMOND George F. Raymond	Director	July 26, 2007
<i>/s/</i> RICHARD W. VAGUE Richard W. Vague	Director	July 27, 2007