

GENERAL ELECTRIC CO

Form 424B5

March 18, 2009

Table of Contents

Filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
(File No. 333-155580)

| Title of Securities to be | Amount to be | Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share (2) | Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price (2) | Amount of Registration Fee (2)(3)(4) |
|--|-----------------|---|---|--|
| Registered | Registered (1) | Share (2) | Price (2) | Fee (2)(3)(4) |
| Common Stock, \$0.06 par value per share | 25,000,000 | \$8.835 | \$220,875,000 | \$12,324.83 |

- (1) Pursuant to Rule 416(a) under the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement also registers such additional shares of Common Stock that become available under the General Electric Stock-Based Compensation and Incentive Plan for Consultants, Advisors and Independent Contractors in connection with changes in the number of outstanding Common Stock because of events such as recapitalizations, stock dividends, stock splits and reverse stock splits, and any other securities with respect to which the outstanding Shares are converted or exchanged.
- (2) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee. This registration fee has been calculated pursuant to Rule 457(h)(1) and Rule 457(c) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, based upon the average of the high and low prices of General Electric Company's Common Stock, par value \$0.06 per share, on March 11, 2009, as reported by the New York Stock Exchange, which was \$8.835.
- (3) Calculated in accordance with Section 6 of the Securities Act and Rule 457 under the Securities Act by multiplying .00005580 and the proposed maximum aggregate offering price.
- (4) General Electric Company filed a prospectus supplement pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5) on July 3, 2008 to Registration Statement No. 333-130117, initially filed on December 5, 2005 in connection with the General Electric Stock-Based Compensation and Incentive Plan for Consultants, Advisors and Independent Contractors (the Plan) and in connection with that filing paid a filing fee of \$26,026.43. Of the 25,000,000 shares of common stock to be offered in connection with the Plan, 24,950,000 shares of common stock remain unsold and Registration Statement No. 333-130117 has expired. Pursuant to Rule 457(p), the full amount of the registration fee currently due hereunder has been offset against a portion of the registration fee paid for the earlier registration statement. After this offset, a balance of \$13,649.55 remains from the fee paid for Registration No. 333-130117.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT TO PROSPECTUS DATED NOVEMBER 21, 2008

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY

25,000,000 Shares of Common Stock

General Electric Company, a New York corporation (**GE**), is offering an aggregate of 25,000,000 shares of its common stock to eligible participants in the General Electric Stock-Based Compensation and Incentive Plan for Consultants, Advisors and Independent Contractors (the **Plan**), pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Plan, as described in this prospectus supplement. GE common stock trades on The New York Stock Exchange under the symbol GE. On March 17, 2009, the closing market price for a share of GE common stock was \$10.00.

This prospectus supplement replaces and supersedes all earlier dated prospectuses relating to the Plan. This prospectus supplement should be read in conjunction with the prospectus dated November 21, 2008 which is attached at the end of this document.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission (the **SEC) nor any state securities commission has approved these securities or passed upon the adequacy of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus dated November 21, 2008. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

This document, dated March 18, 2009, constitutes part of a prospectus covering securities that have been registered under the Securities Act of 1933.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page |
|---|-------------|
| <u>Introduction</u> | S-1 |
| <u>Terms of the Plan</u> | S-1 |
| <u>General</u> | S-1 |
| <u>Administration</u> | S-2 |
| <u>Options Provisions</u> | S-2 |
| <u>Restricted Stock Unit Provisions</u> | S-3 |
| <u>Shares Subject to the Plan</u> | S-3 |
| <u>Miscellaneous</u> | S-3 |
| <u>Termination or Suspension of the Plan</u> | S-3 |
| <u>Federal Income and Employment Tax Considerations</u> | S-4 |
| <u>Securities Law Matters</u> | S-4 |

PROSPECTUS TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page |
|---|-------------|
| <u>About This Prospectus</u> | 1 |
| <u>Where You Can Find More Information</u> | 1 |
| <u>Forward-Looking Statements</u> | 2 |
| <u>The Company</u> | 3 |
| <u>Risk Factors</u> | 3 |
| <u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u> | 4 |
| <u>Use of Proceeds</u> | 4 |
| <u>General Description of Securities That We May Sell</u> | 5 |
| <u>Description of Debt Securities</u> | 6 |
| <u>Description of Common Stock</u> | 20 |
| <u>Description of Warrants</u> | 21 |
| <u>Description of Delayed Delivery Contracts</u> | 22 |
| <u>Description of Guarantees</u> | 23 |
| <u>ERISA Matters</u> | 24 |
| <u>Plan of Distribution</u> | 24 |
| <u>Validity of the Securities</u> | 25 |
| <u>Experts</u> | 25 |

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION

This prospectus supplement relates to shares of Common Stock, par value \$0.06, of GE (referred to in this prospectus supplement as the **Shares**), which may be offered and sold to certain consultants, independent contractors and similar non-employees of GE who provide services to GE, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Plan.

The Plan was originally adopted by GE's Board of Directors on March 14, 1997, and will terminate upon the issuance of all of the Shares reserved for issuance under the Plan, unless it is earlier terminated by GE's Board of Directors.

The Plan is not qualified under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the **Code**). The Plan is not subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (**ERISA**).

GE will provide this prospectus supplement to all individuals who are selected to participate in the Plan. This prospectus supplement contains only a summary of the more significant provisions of the Plan. To make this summary as clear and understandable as possible, some of the rules of the Plan are described in abbreviated form and not all the detailed provisions of the Plan are described herein. The rights and benefits under the Plan will be governed by the provisions of the Plan document, as well as applicable laws and regulations, and not by this prospectus supplement. If there is any conflict between this prospectus supplement and the official text of the Plan, the official text of the Plan will control. **When making important decisions based upon the provisions of the Plan, you should consult the actual Plan document.** The Plan document is readily available at no charge from GE, by contacting GE Corporate Investor Communications, 3135 Easton Turnpike, Fairfield, CT 06828 (telephone (203) 373-2211).

GE has its principal office at 3135 Easton Turnpike, Fairfield, CT, 06828, telephone, (203) 373-2211.

As you know, no one can predict the future value of any stock, and investment in a single security is inherently subject to greater risk than diversified investments. You should carefully and periodically evaluate your investments in GE's common stock to make sure that the amount of your investment is appropriate for your individual financial situation.

TERMS OF THE PLAN

The following is a summary description of the GE Stock-Based Compensation and Incentive Plan for Consultants, Advisors and Independent Contractors. You should carefully review the full text of the Plan document for more complete information.

General.

The purpose of the Plan is to make stock-based compensation available to consultants, independent contractors and similar non-employees of GE who provide services to GE, to align such individuals' interests with those of GE's shareowners. Each individual to whom a grant has been or will be made has been or will be furnished a copy of the Plan. Any individual who renders services to GE or its affiliates is eligible to participate in the Plan, in the discretion of the Committee that administers the Plan.

To date, all awards under the plan have been in the form of either (1) restricted stock units (referred to in this prospectus supplement as **RSUs**) or (2) stock options (referred to in this prospectus supplement as **Options**) that are not intended to qualify as incentive stock options under Section 422 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. Options and RSUs are referred to in this prospectus supplement collectively as **Awards** .

Table of Contents

Administration.

The Plan will be administered by the Management Development and Compensation Committee of GE's Board of Directors (referred to in this prospectus supplement as the **Committee**). Subject to certain limitations, the Committee will have full authority and discretion to take any actions it deems necessary or advisable for the administration of the Plan. All actions taken by the Committee with respect to the Plan will be final, binding and conclusive on all persons.

Option Provisions.

Each Option will be subject to the terms of the Plan and will be evidenced by an agreement between the participant and GE (each such agreement referred to in this prospectus supplement as a **Stock Option Agreement**). The provisions of each Option need not be identical. Each participant is referred to the Plan and his or her Stock Option Agreement for a complete statement of the terms and provisions of his or her Options.

Term. The term of each Option granted under the Plan will be fixed by the Committee in its sole discretion.

Exercise Price. Each Stock Option Agreement will specify the per share exercise price of such award. The exercise price will be determined by the Committee in its sole discretion *provided* that the exercise price of an Option may not be less than 100% of the market value of a Share on the date of grant.

Exercisability. Each Stock Option Agreement will specify the date when all or any installment of an Option is to become exercisable. The exercisability provisions will be determined by the Committee in its sole discretion.

Effect of Termination of Service with GE. In the event a participant's service with GE terminates, the participant may exercise an Option (to the extent that the participant was entitled to exercise such Option as of the date of termination) for such period of time, if any, as determined by the Committee and set forth in the applicable Stock Option Agreement.

Transferability of Options. Generally, Options will not be transferable and may only be exercised by the applicable participant to whom the Option was granted during the lifetime of the participant or by the participant's guardian or legal representative.

Method of Payment. The exercise price of an Option granted under the Plan must be paid in cash, stock, other awards granted under the Plan, other property or any combination thereof, in each case, as determined by the Committee.

No Shareowner Rights. No participant will become the owner of any Shares subject to an Option, or have any of the rights that a holder of such Shares would have, until the participant has exercised the Option (or portion thereof) and GE has issued such Shares to the participant.

Restrictions on Exercise. The issuance of Shares to a participant under an Option is subject to GE meeting all requirements imposed by applicable laws, rules and regulations and by the New York Stock Exchange. GE may require that each participant take reasonable action to comply with any such requirements prior to issuing any Shares.

Restricted Stock Unit Provisions.

Each RSU will be subject to the terms of the Plan and will be evidenced by an agreement between the participant and GE (each such agreement referred to in this prospectus supplement as a **RSU Award Agreement**). RSUs are unsecured promises to issue Shares at the time specific conditions are met. The provisions of each RSU need not be identical. Each participant is referred to the Plan and his or her RSU Award Agreement for a complete statement of the terms and provisions of his or her RSUs.

Vesting. Each RSU Award Agreement will specify the date when all or any installment of an RSU is to become vested. The vesting provisions will be determined by the Committee in its sole discretion.

Table of Contents

Effect of Termination of Service with GE. The Committee will determine the effect, if any, on RSUs of a termination of a participant's service with GE.

Transferability of RSUs. Generally, RSUs will not be transferable.

No Shareowner Rights. No participant will become the owner of any Shares subject to an RSU, or have any of the rights that a holder of such Shares would have, until the RSUs (or portion thereof) have vested and GE has issued such Shares to the participant; provided, however, the Committee may provide that participants are entitled to dividends or dividend equivalents with respect to such Shares.

Shares Subject to the Plan.

Share Limitation. Generally, the maximum number of Shares with respect to which Awards may be granted under the Plan is 30,000,000.

Reversion of Shares to the Share Reserve. If any Award expires, is cancelled or forfeited or otherwise terminates, in whole or in part, without having been exercised or settled in full, the Shares not acquired under such Award will revert to and again become available for issuance under the Plan.

Miscellaneous.

No Retention Rights. Neither the Plan nor any Award provides a participant with any right to continued service with GE.

Adjustments upon Changes in Stock. In the event of any merger, consolidation, reorganization, recapitalization, stock dividend, stock split, exchange of stock or other change in corporate structure, the Committee shall equitably adjust the number of Shares that may be granted under the Plan, the number of Shares subject to outstanding Awards granted under the Plan and the exercise price payable upon exercise of outstanding Awards granted under the Plan.

Termination or Suspension of the Plan.

Right to Amend or Terminate the Plan. GE's Board of Directors may, at any time, and for any reason, amend, suspend or terminate the Plan; provided that any amendment to the Plan shall be subject to shareowner approval to the extent such approval is required.

Plan Term. Unless sooner terminated, the Plan will terminate upon the issuance of all of the Shares reserved for issuance under the Plan, unless it is earlier terminated by GE's Board of Directors. No Awards may be granted under the Plan after it is terminated.

Effect of Amendment or Termination. No amendment or termination of the Plan will adversely affect any Options previously granted under the Plan without the consent of the holder thereof.

FEDERAL INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following is a brief description of the federal income tax treatment generally applicable to GE and participants in the Plan, based on the federal income tax laws in effect on the date hereof. The following discussion is limited to the federal income and certain federal income tax rules relevant to GE and to individuals who are citizens or residents of the United States. Except as described below, no information is being provided herein with respect to employment, estate, inheritance, state, local or foreign laws. **YOU ARE URGED TO CONSULT WITH YOUR TAX ADVISOR WITH RESPECT TO THE FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL, FOREIGN AND OTHER TAX CONSEQUENCES RELATING TO PARTICIPATION IN THE PLAN.**

Table of Contents

All Options granted under the Plan will not qualify for treatment as incentive stock options and are referred to as nonqualified stock options. The grant of a nonqualified stock option is generally not a taxable event for the participant. Upon exercise of a nonqualified stock option, the participant will generally recognize ordinary income in an amount equal to the excess of the fair market value of the shares on the date of exercise over the exercise price, and GE will be entitled to a deduction equal to such amount. A subsequent disposition of the shares will give rise to capital gain or loss equal to the difference between the sales price and the sum of the exercise price paid with respect to the shares plus the ordinary income recognized with respect to the shares. Any capital gain or loss on the subsequent disposition of shares acquired through the exercise of a nonqualified stock option will generally be treated as a long-term or short-term capital gain or loss, depending on whether the holding period for the shares exceeds one year at the time of the disposition.

Participants are responsible for the tax liability incurred upon exercise of the option. GE is not required to, and does not, withhold any tax upon exercise of the option for participants who are not employees of GE.

Generally, the grant of an RSU is not a taxable event to the participant. Participants generally will not recognize taxable ordinary income until the shares subject to the RSU are issued to the participant free of any restrictions. The ordinary income a participant recognizes will be an amount equal to the excess of the fair market value of the shares at the time or time(s) the shares are issued over the amount, if any, paid for the shares. GE will generally be entitled to a tax deduction for the same amount. A subsequent sale of the shares a participant receives in connection with an RSU generally will give rise to capital gain or loss equal to the difference between the sale price and the sum of the purchase price paid for the shares plus the ordinary income recognized with respect to the shares. The capital gains will be taxable as long-term or short-term capital gains, depending on the holding period of the shares.

Participants are responsible for the tax liability incurred in connection with an award of RSUs. GE is not required to, and does not, withhold any tax upon the issuance of shares under an RSU for participants who are not employees of GE.

SECURITIES LAW MATTERS

GE's insiders—certain officers, directors and 10% shareowners—must report the acquisition or disposition of awards granted or sold to them under the plan on forms filed under Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Insiders must also report the exercise of options under Section 16(a). Insiders must generally file these reports within two business days of the reportable transaction. These transactions may be subject to the provisions of Section 16(b), under which a purchase of shares of common stock within six months before or after a sale of shares of common stock can result in recovery by us of all or a portion of any amount by which the sale proceeds exceed the purchase price. Rules adopted under Section 16(b), including Rule 16b-3, may exempt certain transactions from these reporting or liability obligations. **Officers, directors and 10% shareowners should consult their counsel regarding the application and consequences of Section 16(a) and 16(b) prior to engaging in any transaction in our common stock or options.**

Resales of shares of GE's common stock purchased upon the exercise of Options or issued under an RSU by any person who has a control relationship with us or is otherwise considered an affiliate of GE within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933 may be restricted under the provisions of the Securities Act of 1933 and the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission, including Rule 144. If a participant owns Shares issued under the Plan and is not an affiliate within the meaning of the Securities Act, the participant may resell the shares in any way permitted by law and the Plan. If a participant is an affiliate of GE, the participant may sell or transfer these shares only in accordance with the provisions of Rule 144 under the Securities Act, under an effective registration statement covering resales or under an effective exemption from the Securities Act's registration requirement. If a participant is an affiliate of GE, the participant may not use this prospectus supplement to reoffer or resell shares you obtained under the Plan.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

General Electric Company

Debt Securities

Common Stock

Warrants to Purchase Securities

Delayed Delivery Contracts

Guarantees

We may offer from time to time:

senior or subordinated debt securities,

shares of our common stock, par value \$.06 per share,

warrants to purchase any of the other securities that may be sold under this prospectus,

delayed delivery contracts for the purchase or sale of certain specified securities, and

senior or subordinated guarantees.

We will provide specific terms of any offering in supplements to this prospectus. The securities may be offered separately or together in any combination and as separate series. You should read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement carefully before you invest.

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

The mailing address of our principal executive offices is 3135 Easton Turnpike, Fairfield, Connecticut 06828. Our telephone number is 203-373-2211.

Investing in our securities involves risk. See Risk Factors beginning on page 3 of this prospectus.

These securities have not been approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission or any State securities commission, nor have these organizations determined that this prospectus is accurate or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

We may sell these securities on a continuous or delayed basis directly, through agents, dealers or underwriters as designated from time to time, or through a combination of these methods. We reserve the sole right to accept, and together with any agents, dealers and underwriters, reserve the right to reject, in whole or in part, any proposed purchase of securities. If any agents, dealers or underwriters are involved in the sale of any securities, the applicable prospectus supplement will set forth any applicable commissions or discounts. Our net proceeds from the sale of securities also will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Prospectus dated November 21, 2008.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prospectus

| | Page |
|---|-------------|
| <u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u> | 1 |
| <u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u> | 1 |
| <u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u> | 2 |
| <u>THE COMPANY</u> | 3 |
| <u>RISK FACTORS</u> | 3 |
| <u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u> | 4 |
| <u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u> | 4 |
| <u>GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES THAT WE MAY SELL</u> | 5 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES</u> | 6 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK</u> | 20 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u> | 21 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF DELAYED DELIVERY CONTRACTS</u> | 22 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF GUARANTEES</u> | 23 |
| <u>ERISA MATTERS</u> | 24 |
| <u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u> | 24 |
| <u>VALIDITY OF THE SECURITIES</u> | 25 |
| <u>EXPERTS</u> | 25 |

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a shelf registration statement that we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC). By using a shelf registration statement, we may sell, at any time and from time to time, in one or more offerings, any combination of the securities described in this prospectus. For further information about our business and the securities, you should refer to the registration statement and its exhibits. The exhibits to our registration statement contain the full text of certain contracts and other important documents we have summarized in this prospectus. Since these summaries may not contain all the information that you may find important in deciding whether to purchase the securities we offer, you should review the full text of these documents. The registration statement and the exhibits can be obtained from the SEC as indicated under the heading *Where You Can Find More Information*.

This prospectus only provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will file with the SEC a prospectus supplement that contains specific information about the terms of those securities. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with the additional information described below under the heading *Where You Can Find More Information*.

You should rely on the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement. We have authorized no one to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer of these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or a prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than their respective dates.

Except as otherwise indicated, references in this prospectus to *GE*, *we*, *us* and *our* refer to General Electric Company and its subsidiaries.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Our SEC filings are available to the public from the SEC's web site at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may also read and copy any document we file at the SEC's public reference room in Washington, D.C. located at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room. Our common stock is listed and traded on the New York Stock Exchange (the NYSE). You may also inspect the information we file with the SEC at the NYSE's offices at 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005. Information about us, including our SEC filings, is also available at our Internet site at <http://www.ge.com>. However, the information on our Internet site is not a part of this prospectus or any prospectus supplement.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference into this prospectus the information in other documents that we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus, and information in documents that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede information contained in documents filed earlier with the SEC or contained in this prospectus. We incorporate by reference in this prospectus the documents listed below and any future filings that we may make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, prior to the termination of the offering under this prospectus; provided, however, that we are not incorporating, in each case, any documents or information deemed to have been furnished and not filed in accordance with SEC rules:

The Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007 that we filed with the SEC on February 20, 2008;

Table of Contents

The Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2008, June 30, 2008 and September 30, 2008 that we filed with the SEC on April 25, 2008, July 25, 2008 and October 30, 2008, respectively;

The Current Reports on Form 8-K that we filed with the SEC on January 18, 2008, February 1, 2008, March 12, 2008, April 7, 2008, April 30, 2008, May 30, 2008, July 23, 2008, July 25, 2008, August 6, 2008, September 5, 2008, September 25, 2008 (as to Item 8.01 only), October 1, 2008, October 7, 2008, October 8, 2008, October 20, 2008 and November 12, 2008; and

The description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 including any amendment or report updating such description.

You may request a copy of any or all of the documents referred to above which may have been or may be incorporated by reference into this prospectus (excluding certain exhibits to the documents) at no cost to you by writing or telephoning us at the following address:

General Electric Company

3135 Easton Turnpike

Fairfield, Connecticut 06828

Attn: Investor Communications

(203) 373-2211

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Some of the information included or incorporated by reference into this prospectus contains forward-looking statements - that is, statements related to future, not past, events. In this context, forward-looking statements often address our expected future business and financial performance, and often contain words such as expect, anticipate, intend, plan, believe, seek, or will. Forward-looking statements by their nature address matters that are, to different degrees, uncertain. For us, particular uncertainties that could adversely or positively affect our future results include: the behavior of financial markets, including fluctuations in interest and exchange rates, commodity and equity prices and the value of financial assets; continued volatility and further deterioration of the capital markets; the commercial and consumer credit environment; the impact of regulation and regulatory, investigative and legal actions; strategic actions, including acquisitions and dispositions; future integration of acquired businesses; future financial performance of major industries which we serve, including, without limitation, the air and rail transportation, energy generation, media, real estate and healthcare industries; and numerous other matters of national, regional and global scale, including those of a political, economic, business and competitive nature. These uncertainties may cause our actual future results to be materially different than those expressed in our forward-looking statements. We do not undertake to update our forward-looking statements.

Table of Contents

THE COMPANY

GE is one of the largest and most diversified technology, media and financial services corporations in the world. With products and services ranging from aircraft engines, power generation, water processing, and security technology to medical imaging, business and consumer financing, media content and industrial products, GE serves customers in more than 100 countries and employs more than 300,000 people worldwide. Since its incorporation in 1892, GE has developed or acquired new technologies and services that have broadened considerably the scope of its activities.

In virtually all of its global business activities, GE encounters aggressive and able competition. In many instances, the competitive climate is characterized by changing technology that requires continuing research and development, as well as customer commitments. With respect to manufacturing operations, GE believes that, in general, it is one of the leading firms in most of the major industries in which it participates. The NBC Television Network is one of four major U.S. commercial broadcast television networks. GE also competes in syndicated broadcast television programming, cable/satellite television programming activities and in the motion picture industry. The businesses in which GE's subsidiary, General Electric Capital Services, Inc., engages are subject to competition from various types of financial institutions, including commercial banks, thrifts, investment banks, broker-dealers, credit unions, leasing companies, consumer loan companies, independent finance companies and finance companies associated with manufacturers.

GE's address is 1 River Road, Schenectady, NY 12345-6999; it also maintains executive offices at 3135 Easton Turnpike, Fairfield, CT 06828-0001.

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves risks. You should carefully consider the risks described under "Risk Factors" in Item 1A of our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2008 and in the other documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus (which risk factors are incorporated by reference herein), as well as the other information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or in any prospectus supplement hereto before making a decision to invest in our securities. See "Where You Can Find More Information," above.

Table of Contents**RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES**

Set forth below is our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and for each year in the five-year period ended December 31, 2007.

Nine months ended

**GE and consolidated affiliates
Year ended December 31,**

September 30,

| 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1.82x | 2.10x | 2.22x | 2.41x | 2.63x | 2.60x |

In the above calculations, earnings for all periods consist of earnings before income taxes, minority interest, cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles of GE and its consolidated affiliates and discontinued operations. Earnings are also adjusted to add amounts charged to consolidated expenses of GE and its consolidated affiliates during the period for interest and other financial charges (including interest on tax deficiencies) and an amount representative of the interest factor in rentals (for this purpose, the interest factor is assumed to be one-third of rental expense). Fixed charges consist of all interest and financial charges, including capitalized interest, and one-third of rental expense for companies included in the consolidated group.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise specified in a prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus, the net proceeds from the sale of the securities to which this prospectus relates will be used for general corporate purposes. General corporate purposes may include repayment of debt, acquisitions, additions to working capital, capital expenditures and investments in our subsidiaries. Net proceeds may be temporarily invested prior to use.

Table of Contents

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES THAT WE MAY SELL

We may offer and sell, at any time and from time to time:

our debt securities, in one or more series, which may be senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities;

shares of our common stock, par value \$.06 per share;

warrants to purchase any of the other securities that may be sold under this prospectus;

delayed delivery contracts for the purchase or sale of certain specified securities;

senior or subordinated guarantees; or

any combination of these securities.

The terms of any securities we offer will be determined at the time of sale. We may issue debt securities that are exchangeable for or convertible into common stock or any of the other securities that may be sold under this prospectus. When particular securities are offered, a supplement to this prospectus will be filed with the SEC, which will describe the terms of the offering and sale of the offered securities.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

General

The debt securities offered by this prospectus will be issued under one of two separate indentures between us and The Bank of New York Mellon, as Trustee. We have filed the forms of indenture as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. The senior note indenture and the subordinated note indenture are sometimes referred to in this prospectus individually as an indenture and collectively as the indentures. The debt securities will be obligations of GE and will be either senior or subordinated debt. We have summarized selected provisions of the indentures and the debt securities below. This summary is not complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the indentures. References to section numbers in this prospectus, unless otherwise indicated, are references to section numbers of the applicable indenture. For purposes of this summary, the terms we, our, ours and us refer only to General Electric Company and not to any of its subsidiaries.

We may issue debt securities at any time and from time to time in one or more series under the indentures. The indentures give us the ability to reopen a previous issue of a series of debt securities and issue additional debt securities of the same series. Neither indenture limits the amount of debt securities or other secured or unsecured debt which we or our subsidiaries may issue. We will describe the particular terms of each series of debt securities we offer in a supplement to this prospectus. If any particular terms of the debt securities described in a prospectus supplement differ from any of the terms described in this prospectus, then the terms described in the applicable prospectus supplement will supersede the terms described in this prospectus. The terms of our debt securities will include those set forth in the indentures and those made a part of the indentures by the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. You should carefully read the summary below, the applicable prospectus supplement and the provisions of the indentures that may be important to you before investing in our debt securities.

Ranking

The senior debt securities offered by this prospectus will:

be general obligations,

rank equally with all other unsubordinated indebtedness of GE (except to the extent such other indebtedness is secured by collateral that does not also secure the senior debt securities offered by this prospectus), and

with respect to the assets and earnings of our subsidiaries, effectively rank below all of the liabilities of our subsidiaries.

The subordinated debt securities offered by this prospectus will:

be general obligations,

rank subordinated and junior in right of payment, to the extent set forth in the subordinated note indenture, to all Senior Debt (as defined herein), and

with respect to the assets and earnings of our subsidiaries, effectively rank below all of the liabilities of our subsidiaries.

A substantial portion of our assets are owned through our subsidiaries, many of which have significant debt or other liabilities of their own which will be structurally senior to the debt securities. None of our subsidiaries will have any obligations with respect to the debt securities. Therefore, GE's rights and the rights of GE's creditors, including holders of debt securities, to participate in the assets of any subsidiary upon any such subsidiary's liquidation may be subject to the prior claims of the subsidiary's other creditors.

Table of Contents

Subject to the exceptions, and subject to compliance with the applicable requirements set forth in the indentures, we may discharge our obligations under the indentures with respect to our debt securities as described below under Defeasance.

Terms

We will describe the specific terms of the series of debt securities being offered in a supplement to this prospectus. These terms will include some or all of the following:

the title of the debt securities,

whether the debt securities will be senior or subordinated debt,

any limit on the total principal amount of the debt securities,

the date or dates on which the principal of the debt securities will be payable or the method used to determine or extend those dates,

any interest rate on the debt securities, any date from which interest will accrue, any interest payment dates and regular record dates for interest payments, or the method used to determine any of the foregoing, and the basis for calculating interest if other than a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months,

the place or places where payments on the debt securities will be payable, the debt securities may be presented for registration of transfer or exchange, and notices and demands to or upon us relating to the debt securities may be made, if other than the corporate trust office of the Trustee,

any provisions for redemption of the debt securities,

any provisions that would allow or obligate us to redeem or purchase the debt securities prior to their maturity pursuant to any sinking fund or analogous provision or at the option of the holder,

the denominations in which we will issue the debt securities, if other than denominations of an integral multiple of \$1,000,

any provisions that would determine payments on the debt securities by reference to an index or a formula,

any foreign currency, currencies or currency units in which payments on the debt securities will be payable and the manner for determining the equivalent amount in \$U.S.,

any provisions for payments on the debt securities in one or more currencies or currency units other than those in which the debt securities are stated to be payable,

Edgar Filing: GENERAL ELECTRIC CO - Form 424B5

the portion of the principal amount of the debt securities that will be payable if the maturity of the debt securities is accelerated, if other than the entire principal amount,

if the principal amount to be paid at the stated maturity of the debt securities is not determinable as of one or more dates prior to the stated maturity, the amount that will be deemed to be the principal amount as of any such date for any purpose,

any variation of the defeasance and covenant defeasance sections of the indentures and the manner in which our election to defease the debt securities will be evidenced, if other than by a board resolution,

whether we will issue the debt securities in the form of temporary or permanent global securities, the depositaries for the global securities, and provisions for exchanging or transferring the global securities,

whether the interest rate of the debt securities may be reset,

whether the stated maturity of the debt securities may be extended,

Table of Contents

any deletion or addition to or change in the events of default for the debt securities and any change in the rights of the Trustee or the holders of the debt securities arising from an event of default including, among others, the right to declare the principal amount of the debt securities due and payable,

any addition to or change in the covenants in the indentures,

any additions or changes to the indentures necessary to issue the debt securities in bearer form, registrable or not registrable as to principal, and with or without interest coupons,

the appointment of any paying agents for the debt securities, if other than the Trustee,

the terms of any right to convert or exchange the debt securities into any other securities or property,

the terms and conditions, if any, pursuant to which the debt securities of a series are secured,

any restriction or condition on the transferability of the debt securities,

in the case of subordinated debt securities, any subordination provisions and related definitions which may be applicable in addition to, or in lieu of, those contained in the subordinated note indenture,

the exchanges, if any, on which the debt securities may be listed, and

any other terms of the debt securities consistent with the indentures. (Section 301)

Any limit on the maximum total principal amount for any series of the debt securities may be increased by resolution of our board of directors. (Section 301). We may sell the debt securities, including original issue discount securities, at a substantial discount below their stated principal amount. If there are any special United States federal income tax considerations applicable to debt securities we sell at an original issue discount, we will describe them in the prospectus supplement. In addition, we will describe in the prospectus supplement any special United States federal income tax considerations and any other special considerations for any debt securities we sell which are denominated in a currency or currency unit other than \$U.S.

Form, Exchange and Transfer

We will issue the debt securities in registered form, without coupons. Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, we will only issue debt securities in denominations of integral multiples of \$1,000. (Section 302)

Holders generally will be able to exchange debt securities for other debt securities of the same series with the same total principal amount and the same terms but in different authorized denominations. (Section 305)

Holders may present debt securities for exchange or for registration of transfer at the office of the security registrar or at the office of any transfer agent we designate for that purpose. The security registrar or designated transfer agent will exchange or transfer the debt securities if it is satisfied with the documents of title and identity of the person making the request. We will not charge a service charge for any exchange or registration of transfer of debt securities. However, we and the security registrar may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge payable for the registration of transfer or exchange. Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, we will appoint the Trustee as security registrar. We will identify any transfer agent in addition to the security registrar in the prospectus supplement. (Section 305). At any time we may:

designate additional transfer agents,

rescind the designation of any transfer agent, or

approve a change in the office of any transfer agent.

However, we are required to maintain a transfer agent in each place of payment for the debt securities at all times. (Sections 305 and 1002)

Table of Contents

If we elect to redeem a series of debt securities, neither we nor the Trustee will be required:

to issue, register the transfer of or exchange any debt securities of that series during the period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day we mail the notice of redemption for the series and ending at the close of business on the day the notice is mailed, or

to register the transfer or exchange of any debt security of that series so selected for redemption, except for any portion not to be redeemed. (Section 305)

Payment and Paying Agents

Under the indentures, we will pay interest on the debt securities to the persons in whose names the debt securities are registered at the close of business on the regular record date for each interest payment. However, unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, we will pay the interest payable on the debt securities at their stated maturity to the persons to whom we pay the principal amount of the debt securities. The initial payment of interest on any series of debt securities issued between a regular record date and the related interest payment date will be payable in the manner provided by the terms of the series, which we will describe in the prospectus supplement. (Section 307)

Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, we will pay principal, premium, if any, and interest on the debt securities at the offices of the paying agents we designate. However, except in the case of a global security, we may pay interest:

by check mailed to the address of the person entitled to the payment as it appears in the security register, or

by wire transfer in immediately available funds to the place and account designated in writing at least fifteen days prior to the interest payment date by the person entitled to the payment as specified in the security register.

We will designate the Trustee as the sole paying agent for the debt securities unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement. If we initially designate any other paying agents for a series of debt securities, we will identify them in the prospectus supplement. At any time, we may designate additional paying agents or rescind the designation of any paying agents. However, we are required to maintain a paying agent in each place of payment for the debt securities at all times. (Sections 307 and 1002)

Any money deposited with the Trustee or any paying agent in trust for the payment of principal, premium, if any, or interest on the debt securities that remains unclaimed for one year after the date the payments became due, may be repaid to us upon our request. After we have been repaid, holders entitled to those payments may only look to us for payment as our unsecured general creditors. The Trustee and any paying agents will not be liable for those payments after we have been repaid. (Section 1003)

Restrictive Covenants

We will describe any restrictive covenants for any series of debt securities in the prospectus supplement.

Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets

Under the indentures, we may not consolidate with or merge into, or convey, transfer or lease our properties and assets substantially as an entirety to, any person (as defined below), referred to as a successor person unless:

the successor person expressly assumes our obligations with respect to the debt securities and the indentures,

Table of Contents

immediately after giving effect to the transaction, no event of default shall have occurred and be continuing (and, in the case of subordinated debt securities, no default in the performance of or breach, in any material respect, of any covenant or condition under the subordinated debt indenture shall have occurred and be continuing, for which notice of such failure or breach has been given to us and the Trustee by the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding subordinated debt securities (a covenant event)), and no event which, after notice or lapse of time or both, would become an event of default (or, in the case of subordinated debt securities, a covenant event), shall have occurred and be continuing, and

we have delivered to the Trustee the certificates and opinions required under the respective indenture. (Section 801)

As used in the indentures, the term *person* means any individual, corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, unincorporated organization, government or agency or political subdivision thereof.

Events of Default

Senior Debt Securities

Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, each of the following will be an event of default under the senior debt indenture with respect to any series of debt securities:

our failure to pay principal or premium, if any, on that series of debt securities when such principal or premium, if any, becomes due,

our failure to pay any interest on that series of debt securities for 30 days after such interest becomes due,

our failure to deposit any sinking fund payment for 30 days after such payment is due by the terms of that series of debt securities,

our failure to perform, or our breach, in any material respect, of any other covenant or warranty in the senior debt indenture with respect to that series of debt securities, other than a covenant or warranty included in the senior debt indenture solely for the benefit of another series of debt securities, for 90 days after either the Trustee has given us or holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series have given us and the Trustee written notice of such failure to perform or breach in the manner required by the senior debt indenture,

specified events involving our bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization, or

any other event of default we may provide for that series of debt securities,

provided, however, that no event described in the fourth bullet point above will be an event of default until an officer of the Trustee responsible for the administration of the senior debt indenture has actual knowledge of the event or until the Trustee receives written notice of the event at its corporate trust office. (Section 501)

An event of default under one series of debt securities does not necessarily constitute an event of default under any other series of debt securities. If an event of default for a series of debt securities occurs and is continuing, either the Trustee or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series may declare the principal amount of all the debt securities of that series due and immediately payable by a notice in writing to us (and to the Trustee if given by the holders). Upon such declaration, we will be obligated to pay the principal amount of that series of debt securities.

The right described in the preceding paragraph does not apply if an event of default occurs as described in the sixth bullet point above which applies to all outstanding series of debt securities. If such an event of default occurs and is continuing, either the Trustee or holders of at least 25% in principal amount of all of the debt securities then outstanding, treated as one class, may declare the principal amount of all of the debt

Edgar Filing: GENERAL ELECTRIC CO - Form 424B5

securities then outstanding to be due and payable immediately by a notice in writing to us (and to the Trustee if given by the holders). Upon such declaration, we will be obligated to pay the principal amount of the debt securities.

Table of Contents

Subordinated Debt Securities

Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, each of the following will be an event of default under the subordinated debt indenture with respect to any series of debt securities:

our failure to pay principal or premium, if any, on that series of debt securities when such principal or premium, if any, becomes due,

our failure to pay any interest on that series of debt securities for 30 days after such interest becomes due,

our failure to deposit any sinking fund payment for 30 days after such payment is due by the terms of that series of debt securities,

specified events involving our bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization, or

any other event of default we may provide for that series of debt securities. (Section 501)

An event of default under one series of debt securities does not necessarily constitute an event of default under any other series of debt securities. If an event of default described in the fourth bullet point above for a series of debt securities occurs and is continuing, either the Trustee or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series may declare the principal amount of all the debt securities of that series due and immediately payable by a notice in writing to us (and to the Trustee if given by the holders). Upon such declaration, we will be obligated to pay the principal amount of that series of debt securities.

Terms Applicable to all Debt Securities

After any declaration of acceleration of a series of debt securities, but before a judgment or decree for payment has been obtained, the event of default giving rise to the declaration of acceleration will, without further act, be deemed to have been waived, and such declaration and its consequences will, without further act, be deemed to have been rescinded and annulled if:

we have paid or deposited with the Trustee a sum sufficient to pay:

all overdue interest,

the principal and premium, if any, due otherwise than by the declaration of acceleration and any interest on such amounts,

any interest on overdue interest, to the extent legally permitted, and

all amounts due to the Trustee under the indentures, and

all events of default (or, in the case of the subordinated debt securities, all covenant events) with respect to that series of debt securities, other than the nonpayment of the principal which became due solely by virtue of the declaration of acceleration, have been cured or waived. (Section 502)

Edgar Filing: GENERAL ELECTRIC CO - Form 424B5

If an event of default (or, in the case of the subordinated debt securities, a covenant event) occurs and is continuing, the Trustee will generally have no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the indentures at the request or direction of any of the holders, unless the holders offer reasonable indemnity to the Trustee. (Section 603). The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series will generally have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the Trustee or exercising any trust or power conferred on the Trustee for the debt securities of that series, provided that:

the direction is not in conflict with any law or the indentures,

Table of Contents

the Trustee may take any other action it deems proper which is not inconsistent with the direction, and

the Trustee will generally have the right to decline to follow the direction if an officer of the Trustee determines, in good faith, that the proceeding would involve the Trustee in personal liability or would otherwise be contrary to applicable law. (Section 512)

A holder of a debt security of any series may only pursue a remedy under the indentures if:

the holder gives the Trustee written notice of a continuing event of default (or, in the case of the subordinated debt securities, a covenant event) for that series,

holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series make a written request to the Trustee to institute proceedings with respect to such event of default (or, in the case of the subordinated debt securities, such covenant event),

the holders offer reasonable indemnity to the Trustee,

the Trustee fails to pursue that remedy within 60 days after receipt of the notice, request and offer of indemnity, and

during that 60-day period, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of that series do not give the Trustee a direction inconsistent with the request. (Section 507)

However, these limitations do not apply to a suit by a holder of a debt security demanding payment of the principal, premium, if any, or interest on a debt security on or after the date the payment is due. (Section 508)

We will be required to furnish to the Trustee annually a statement by some of our officers regarding our performance or observance of any of the terms of the indentures and specifying all of our known defaults, if any. (Section 1004)

Modification and Waiver

When authorized by a board resolution, we may enter into one or more supplemental indentures with the Trustee without the consent of the holders of the debt securities in order to:

evidence the succession of another person to us, or successive successions, and the assumption of our covenants, agreements and obligations by the successor,

add to our covenants for the benefit of the holders of any series of debt securities or to surrender any of our rights or powers,

add any additional events of default for any series of debt securities for the benefit of the holders of any series of debt securities,

add to or change any provision of the indentures to the extent necessary to issue debt securities in bearer form or uncertificated form,

Edgar Filing: GENERAL ELECTRIC CO - Form 424B5

add to, change or eliminate any provision of the indentures applying to one or more series of debt securities, provided that if such action adversely affects the interests of any holder of any series of debt securities in any material respect, such addition, change or elimination will become effective with respect to that series only when no such security of that series remains outstanding,

Table of Contents

convey, transfer, assign, mortgage or pledge any property to or with the Trustee or to surrender any right or power conferred upon us by the indentures,

establish the forms or terms of any series of debt securities,

provide for uncertificated securities in addition to certificated securities,

evidence and provide for successor Trustees and to add to or change any provisions of the indentures to the extent necessary to appoint a separate Trustee or Trustees for a specific series of debt securities,

correct any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency under the indentures,

make other provisions with respect to matters or questions arising under the indentures, provided that such action does not adversely affect the interests of the holders of any series of debt securities in any material respect,

supplement any provisions of the indentures necessary to defease and discharge any series of debt securities, provided that such action does not adversely affect the interests of the holders of any series of debt securities in any material respect,

comply with the rules or regulations of any securities exchange or automated quotation system on which any debt securities are listed or traded,

add to, change or eliminate any provisions of the indentures in accordance with any amendments to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, provided that such action does not adversely affect the rights or interests of any holder of debt securities in any material respect, or

provide for the payment by us of additional amounts in respect of taxes imposed on certain holders and for the treatment of such additional amounts as interest and for all matters incidental thereto. (Section 901)

When authorized by a board resolution, we may enter into one or more supplemental indentures with the Trustee in order to add to, change or eliminate provisions of the indentures or to modify the rights of the holders of one or more series of debt securities under such indentures if we obtain the consent of the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all series affected by such supplemental indenture, treated as one class. However, without the consent of the holders of each outstanding debt security affected by the supplemental indenture, we may not enter into a supplemental indenture that:

except with respect to the reset of the interest rate or extension of maturity pursuant to the terms of a particular series, changes the stated maturity of the principal of, or any installment of principal of or interest on, any debt security, or reduces the principal amount of, or any premium or rate of interest on, any debt security,

reduces the amount of principal of an original issue discount security or any other debt security payable upon acceleration of the maturity thereof,

changes the place or currency of payment of principal, premium, if any, or interest,

impairs the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on or after such payment becomes due for any security,

reduces the percentage in principal amount of outstanding debt securities of any series, the consent of whose holders is required for modification of the indentures, for waiver of compliance with certain provisions of the indentures or for waiver of certain defaults of the indentures,

makes certain modifications to the provisions for modification of the indentures and for certain waivers, except to increase the principal amount of debt securities necessary to consent to any such change or to provide that certain other provisions of the indentures cannot be modified or waived without the consent of the holders of each outstanding debt security affected by such change,

Table of Contents

makes any change that adversely affects in any material respect the right to convert or exchange any convertible or exchangeable debt security or decreases the conversion or exchange rate or increases the conversion price of such debt security, unless such decrease or increase is permitted by the terms of such debt securities, or

changes the terms and conditions pursuant to which any series of debt securities are secured in a manner adverse to the holders of such debt securities in any material respect. (Section 902)

In addition, the subordinated note indenture may not be amended without the consent of each holder of subordinated debt securities affected thereby to modify the subordination of the subordinated debt securities issued under that indenture in a manner adverse to the holders of the subordinated debt securities in any material respect.

Holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may waive past defaults or noncompliance with restrictive provisions of the indentures. However, the consent of holders of each outstanding debt security of a series is required to:

waive any default in the payment of principal, premium, if any, or interest, or

waive any covenants and provisions of an indenture that may not be amended without the consent of the holder of each outstanding debt security of the series affected. (Sections 513 and 1006)

In order to determine whether the holders of the requisite principal amount of the outstanding debt securities have taken an action under an indenture as of a specified date:

the principal amount of an original issue discount security that will be deemed to be outstanding will be the amount of the principal that would be due and payable as of that date upon acceleration of the maturity to that date,

if, as of that date, the principal amount payable at the stated maturity of a debt security is not determinable, for example, because it is based on an index, the principal amount of the debt security deemed to be outstanding as of that date will be an amount determined in the manner prescribed for the debt security,

the principal amount of a debt security denominated in one or more foreign currencies or currency units that will be deemed to be outstanding will be the \$U.S. equivalent, determined as of that date in the manner prescribed for the debt security, of the principal amount of the debt security or, in the case of a debt security described in the two preceding bullet points, of the amount described above, and

debt securities owned by us or any other obligor upon the debt securities or any of our or their affiliates will be disregarded and deemed not to be outstanding.

An original issue discount security means a debt security issued under the indentures which provides for an amount less than the principal amount thereof to be due and payable upon a declaration of acceleration of maturity. Some debt securities, including those for the payment or redemption of which money has been deposited or set aside in trust for the holders, and those which have been legally defeased under the indentures, will not be deemed to be outstanding.

We will generally be entitled to set any day as a record date for determining the holders of outstanding debt securities of any series entitled to give or take any direction, notice, consent, waiver or other action under an indenture. In limited circumstances, the Trustee will be entitled to set a record date for action by holders of outstanding debt securities. If a record date is set for any action to be taken by holders of a particular series, the action may be taken only by persons who are holders of outstanding debt securities of that series on the record date. To be effective, the action must be taken by holders of the requisite principal amount of debt securities within a specified period following the record date. For any particular record date, this period will be 180 days or such shorter period as we may specify, or the Trustee may specify, if it sets the record date.

This period may be shortened or lengthened by not more than 180 days. (Section 104)

Table of Contents

Conversion and Exchange Rights

The debt securities of any series may be convertible into or exchangeable for other securities of GE or another issuer or property or cash on the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Defeasance

When we use the term defeasance, we mean discharge from some or all of our obligations under either indenture. Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, if we deposit with the Trustee funds or government securities sufficient to make payments on the debt securities of a series on the dates those payments are due and payable and comply with all other conditions to defeasance set forth in the indentures, then, at our option, either of the following will occur:

we will be discharged from our obligations with respect to the debt securities of that series (legal defeasance), or

we will no longer have any obligation to comply with the restrictive covenants under the indentures, and the related events of default (or, in the case of the subordinated debt securities, covenant events) will no longer apply to us, but some of our other obligations under the indentures and the debt securities of that series, including our obligation to make payments on those debt securities, will survive (covenant defeasance).

If we legally defease a series of debt securities, the holders of the debt securities of the series affected will not be entitled to the benefits of the indentures, except for:

the rights of holders of that series of debt securities to receive, solely from a trust fund, payments in respect of such debt securities when payments are due,

our obligation to register the transfer or exchange of debt securities,

our obligation to replace mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen debt securities, and

our obligation to maintain paying agencies and hold moneys for payment in trust.

We may legally defease a series of debt securities notwithstanding any prior exercise of our option of covenant defeasance in respect of such series.

In addition, the subordinated note indenture provides that if we choose to have the legal defeasance provision applied to the subordinated debt securities, the subordination provisions of the subordinated note indenture will become ineffective. The subordinated note indenture also provides that if we choose to have covenant defeasance apply to any series of debt securities issued pursuant to the subordinated note indenture we need not comply with the provisions relating to subordination.

Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, we will be required to deliver to the Trustee an opinion of counsel that the deposit and related defeasance would not cause the holders of the debt securities to recognize gain or loss for federal income tax purposes and that the holders would be subject to federal income tax on the same amounts, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if the deposit and related defeasance had not occurred. If we elect legal defeasance, that opinion of counsel must be based upon a ruling from the United States Internal Revenue Service or a change in law to that effect. (Sections 1401-1404)

Satisfaction and Discharge

Edgar Filing: GENERAL ELECTRIC CO - Form 424B5

We may discharge our obligations under the indentures while securities remain outstanding if (1) all outstanding debt securities issued under the indentures have become due and payable, (2) all outstanding debt

Table of Contents

securities issued under the indentures will become due and payable at their stated maturity within one year of the date of deposit or (3) all outstanding debt securities issued under the indentures are scheduled for redemption in one year, and in each case, we have deposited with the Trustee an amount sufficient to pay and discharge all outstanding debt securities issued under the indentures on the date of their scheduled maturity or the scheduled date of the redemption and paid all other amounts payable under the indentures. (Section 401). The subordinated note indenture provides that if we choose to discharge our obligations with respect to the subordinated debt securities, the subordination provisions of the subordinated note indenture will become ineffective. (Section 1610)

Global Notes, Delivery and Form

Unless otherwise specified in a prospectus supplement, the debt securities will be issued in the form of one or more fully registered Global Notes (as defined below) that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York (the Depository) and registered in the name of the Depository's nominee. Global Notes are not exchangeable for definitive note certificates except in the specific circumstances described below. For purposes of this prospectus, Global Note refers to the Global Note or Global Notes representing an entire issue of debt securities.

Except as set forth below, a Global Note may be transferred by the Depository, in whole and not in part, only to a nominee of the Depository or by a nominee of the Depository to the Depository or another nominee of the Depository.

The Depository has advised us as follows:

The Depository is:

- a limited purpose trust company organized under the laws of the State of New York;
- a banking organization within the meaning of the New York banking law;
- a member of the Federal Reserve System;
- a clearing corporation within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code; and
- a clearing agency registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

The Depository was created to hold securities of its participants and to facilitate the clearance and settlement of securities transactions among its participants through electronic book entry changes in accounts of its participants, eliminating the need for physical movements of securities certificates.

The Depository participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and others, some of whom own the Depository.

Access to the Depository book-entry system is also available to others that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a participant, either directly or indirectly.

Edgar Filing: GENERAL ELECTRIC CO - Form 424B5

Where we issue a Global Note in connection with the sale thereof to an underwriter or underwriters, the Depository will immediately credit the accounts of participants designated by such underwriter or underwriters with the principal amount of the debt securities purchased by such underwriter or underwriters.

Ownership of beneficial interests in a Global Note and the transfers of ownership will be effected only through records maintained by the Depository (with respect to participants), by the participants (with respect to indirect participants and certain beneficial owners) and by the indirect participants (with respect to all other beneficial owners). The laws of some states require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery in definitive form of securities they purchase. These laws may limit your ability to transfer beneficial interests in a Global Note.

Table of Contents

So long as a nominee of the Depository is the registered owner of a Global Note, such nominee for all purposes will be considered the sole owner or holder of such debt securities under the indentures. Except as provided below, you will not be entitled to have debt securities registered in your name, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of debt securities in definitive form, and will not be considered the owner or holder thereof under the indentures.

Each person owning a beneficial interest in a Global Note must rely on the procedures of the Depository and, if that person is not a participant, on the procedures of the participant through which that person owns its interest, to exercise any rights of a holder under the indentures. We understand that under existing industry practices, if we request any action of holders or if an owner of a beneficial interest in any Global Note desires to give or take any action which a holder is entitled to give or take under the indentures, the Depository would authorize the participants holding the relevant beneficial interests to give or take that action, and the participants would authorize beneficial owners owning through these participants to give or take that action or would otherwise act upon the instructions of beneficial owners owning through them.

Redemption notices shall be sent to the Depository. If less than all of the debt securities within an issue are being redeemed, the Depository's practice is to determine by lot the amount of the interest of each participant in such issue to be redeemed.

We will make payment of principal of, and interest on, debt securities represented by a Global Note to the Depository or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owner and holder of the Global Note representing those debt securities. The Depository has advised us that upon receipt of any payment of principal of, or interest on, a Global Note, the Depository will immediately credit accounts of participants with payments in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in the principal amount of that Global Note, as shown in the records of the Depository. Standing instructions and customary practices will govern payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in a Global Note held through those participants, as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in street name. Those payments will be the sole responsibility of those participants, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements that may be in effect from time to time.

Neither we, the Trustee nor any of our respective agents will be responsible for any aspect of the records of the Depository, any nominee or any participant relating to, or payments made on account of, beneficial interests in a Global Note or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any of the records of the Depository, any nominee or any participant relating to those beneficial interests.

As described above, we will issue debt securities in definitive form in exchange for a Global Note only in the following situations:

if the Depository is at any time unwilling or unable to continue as depository, defaults in the performance of its duties as depository, ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and, in each case, a successor depository is not appointed by us within 90 days after notice thereof, or

if, subject to the rules of the Depository, we choose to issue definitive debt securities.

In either instance, an owner of a beneficial interest in a Global Note will be entitled to have debt securities equal in principal amount to such beneficial interest registered in its name and will be entitled to physical delivery of debt securities in definitive form. Debt securities in definitive form will be issued in denominations of \$1,000 and integral multiples thereof and will be issued in registered form only, without coupons. We will maintain in the Borough of Manhattan, The City of New York, one or more offices or agencies where debt securities may be presented for payment and may be transferred or exchanged. You will not be charged a fee for any transfer or exchange of such debt securities, but we may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection therewith.

Table of Contents

Highly Leveraged Transaction

The general provisions of the indentures do not afford holders of the debt securities protection in the event of a highly leveraged or other transaction involving GE that may adversely affect holders of the debt securities.

Subordination

Any subordinated debt securities issued under the subordinated note indenture will be subordinate and junior in right of payment to all Senior Debt of GE whether existing at the date of the subordinated note indenture or subsequently incurred. Upon any payment or distribution of assets of GE to creditors upon any:

liquidation;

dissolution;

winding-up;

receivership;

reorganization;

assignment for the benefit of creditors;

marshaling of assets;

bankruptcy, insolvency or similar proceedings of GE, the holders of Senior Debt will first be entitled to receive payment in full of the principal of and premium, if any, and interest on such Senior Debt before the holders of the subordinated debt securities will be entitled to receive or retain any payment in respect of the principal of and any premium or interest on the subordinated debt securities.

Upon the acceleration of the maturity of any subordinated debt securities, the holders of all Senior Debt outstanding at the time of such acceleration will first be entitled to receive payment in full of all amounts due thereon, including any amounts due upon acceleration, before the holders of subordinated debt securities will be entitled to receive or retain any payment in respect of the principal (including redemption payments), or premium, if any, or interest on the subordinated debt securities.

No payments on account of principal (including redemption payments), or premium, if any, or interest, in respect of the subordinated debt securities may be made if:

there has occurred and is continuing a default in any payment with respect to Senior Debt; or

Edgar Filing: GENERAL ELECTRIC CO - Form 424B5

there has occurred and is continuing a default with respect to any Senior Debt resulting in the acceleration of the maturity thereof.
Debt means, with respect to any person:

all indebtedness of such person for borrowed money;

all obligations of such person evidenced by bonds, debentures, notes or other similar instruments, including obligations incurred in connection with the acquisition of property, assets or businesses;

all obligations of such person with respect to letters of credit, bankers' acceptances or similar facilities issued for the account of such person;

all obligations of such person to pay the deferred purchase price of property or services, but excluding accounts payable or any other indebtedness or monetary obligations to trade creditors arising in the ordinary course of business in connection with the acquisition of goods or services;

Table of Contents

all capital lease obligation of such person;

all Debt of others secured by a lien on any asset by such person;

all Debt and dividends of others guaranteed by such person to the extent such Debt and dividends are guaranteed by such person; and

all obligations for claims in respect of derivative products.

Senior Debt means the principal of, and premium, if any, and interest on Debt of GE, whether created, incurred or assumed on, before or after the date of the subordinated note indenture, unless the instrument creating or evidencing the Debt provides that such Debt is subordinated to or *pari passu* with the subordinated debt securities.

The indentures place no limitation on the amount of additional Senior Debt that may be incurred by GE.

Notices

Holders will receive notices by mail at their addresses as they appear in the security register. (Section 106)

Title

We may treat the person in whose name a debt security is registered on the applicable record date as the owner of the debt security for all purposes, whether or not it is overdue. (Section 309)

Governing Law

New York law governs the indentures and the debt securities. (Section 112)

Regarding the Trustee

GE, our subsidiary General Electric Capital Corporation (GECC) and other affiliates of GE maintain various commercial and investment banking relationships with The Bank of New York Mellon and its affiliates in their ordinary course of business.

The Bank of New York Mellon acts as Trustee under (i) an Amended and Restated Indenture with GECC dated as of February 27, 1997, as supplemented, (ii) a Senior Note Indenture with GE dated January 1, 2003, (iii) an Indenture with GE dated December 1, 2005 and (iv) an Indenture for Subordinated Debt with GECC dated September 1, 2006. The Bank of New York Mellon also acts as Trustee under certain other indentures with GECC.

If an event of default occurs under the indentures and is continuing, the Trustee will be required to use the degree of care and skill of a prudent person in the conduct of that person's own affairs. The Trustee will become obligated to exercise any of its powers under the indentures at the request of any of the holders of any debt securities issued under the indentures only after those holders have offered the Trustee indemnity satisfactory to it.

If the Trustee becomes one of our creditors, its rights to obtain payment of claims in specified circumstances, or to realize for its own account on certain property received in respect of any such claim as security or otherwise will be limited under the terms of the indentures. (Section 613). The Trustee may engage in certain other transactions; however, if the Trustee acquires any conflicting interest (within the meaning specified under the Trust Indenture Act), it will be required to eliminate the conflict or resign. (Section 608)

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

Set forth below is a description of the GE common stock. The following description of the GE common stock is a summary and is subject to the provisions of our certificate of incorporation, our by-laws and the relevant provisions of the law of the State of New York.

We are currently authorized to issue up to 13,200,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$.06 per share. As of October 31, 2008, we had outstanding approximately 10,522,186,060 shares of our common stock.

We are also authorized to issue up to 50,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$1.00 per share, of which 30,000 shares of 10% Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A (Series A) are issued and outstanding. GE s board of directors may fix the designation, relative rights, preferences and limitations of the shares of any additional series of preferred stock to be issued.

Each share of GE common stock entitles the holder of record to one vote at all meetings of shareowners, and the votes are noncumulative. The GE common stock is not redeemable, has no subscription or conversion rights and does not entitle the holder to any preemptive rights.

Holders of the GE common stock are entitled to share ratably in any dividends and in any assets available for distribution on liquidation, dissolution or winding-up, subject to the preferential rights of the holders of the Series A and any other preferred stock that may be issued. In the event of any liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the holders of the Series A are entitled to receive out of the assets available for distribution, payment in full of an amount equal to (i) \$100,000 per share and (ii) the accrued and unpaid dividends thereon, whether or not declared, to the date of payment, for each share of Series A, before any distribution of such assets is made to the holders of common stock.

Dividends may be paid on the GE common stock out of funds legally available for dividends, when and if declared by GE s board of directors, provided, however, that so long as any Series A remains outstanding no dividend will be declared on the common stock unless all accrued and unpaid dividends on all outstanding shares of Series A have been paid in full.

The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation is the transfer agent and registrar for the GE common stock.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may issue warrants, in one or more series, for the purchase of debt securities or shares of our common stock, par value \$.06 per share. Warrants may be issued independently or together with our debt securities or common stock and may be attached to or separate from any offered securities. In addition to this summary, you should refer to the detailed provisions of the specific warrant agreement for complete terms of the warrants and the warrant agreement. Unless otherwise specified in a prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus, each warrant agreement will be between GE and a banking institution organized under the laws of the United States or a state thereof as warrant agent. A form of warrant agreement will be filed with the SEC as an exhibit to the Registration Statement by post-effective amendment or a Current Report on Form 8-K.

The warrants will be evidenced by warrant certificates. Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement, the warrant certificates may be traded separately from the debt securities or common stock, if any, with which the warrant certificates were issued. Warrant certificates may be exchanged for new warrant certificates of different denominations at the office of an agent that we will appoint. Until a warrant is exercised, the holder of a warrant does not have any of the rights of a holder of our debt securities or common stock and is not entitled to any payments on any debt securities or common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrants.

A prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus relating to a particular series of warrants to issue debt securities or common stock will describe the terms of those warrants, including:

the title and the aggregate number of warrants;

the debt securities or common stock for which each warrant is exercisable;

the date or dates on which the right to exercise such warrants commence and expire;

the price or prices at which such warrants are exercisable;

the currency or currencies in which such warrants are exercisable;

the periods during which and places at which such warrants are exercisable;

the terms of any mandatory or optional call provisions;

the price or prices, if any, at which the warrants may be redeemed at the option of the holder or will be redeemed upon expiration;

the identity of the warrant agent; and

the exchanges, if any, on which such warrants may be listed.

You may exercise warrants by payment to our warrant agent of the exercise price, in each case in such currency or currencies as are specified in the warrant, and giving your identity and the number of warrants to be exercised. Once you pay our warrant agent and deliver the properly completed and executed warrant certificate to our warrant agent at the specified office, our warrant agent will, as soon as practicable, forward securities to you in authorized denominations or share amounts. If you exercise less than all of the warrants evidenced by your warrant

certificate, you will be issued a new warrant certificate for the remaining amount of warrants.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DELAYED DELIVERY CONTRACTS

We may issue delayed delivery contracts for the purchase or sale of our debt securities or equity securities or securities of third parties including any of our affiliates, a basket of such securities, an index or indices of such securities or any combination of the above as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

We may issue delayed delivery contracts obligating holders to purchase from us, and obligating us to sell to holders, at a future date, a specified or varying number of securities at a purchase price, which may be based on a formula. Alternatively, we may issue delayed delivery contracts obligating us to purchase from holders, and obligating holders to sell to us, at a future date, a specified or varying number of securities at a purchase price, which may be based on a formula. We may satisfy our obligations, if any, with respect to any delayed delivery contract by delivering the subject securities or by delivering the cash value of such delayed delivery contract or the cash value of the property otherwise deliverable, as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. The applicable prospectus supplement will specify the methods by which the holders may purchase or sell such securities and any acceleration, cancellation or termination provisions or other provisions relating to the settlement of a delayed delivery contract.

The delayed delivery contracts may require us to make periodic payments to the holders thereof or vice versa, and these payments may be unsecured or prefunded and may be paid on a current or deferred basis. The delayed delivery contracts may require holders thereof to secure their obligations under the contracts in a specified manner to be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Alternatively, delayed delivery contracts may require holders to satisfy their obligations thereunder when the delayed delivery contracts are issued as described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF GUARANTEES

Any guarantees that we issue from time to time for the benefit of holders of specified underlying securities will include the following terms and conditions, plus any additional terms specified in the accompanying prospectus supplement.

A guarantee will provide that we unconditionally guarantee the due and punctual payment of the principal, interest (if any), premium (if any) and all other amounts due under the applicable underlying securities when the same shall become due and payable, whether at maturity, pursuant to mandatory or optional prepayments, by acceleration or otherwise, in each case after any applicable grace periods or notice requirements, according to the terms of the applicable underlying securities. Any guarantee shall be unconditional irrespective of the validity or enforceability of the applicable underlying security, any change or amendment thereto or any other circumstances that may otherwise constitute a legal or equitable discharge or defense of a guarantor. However, we will not waive presentment or demand of payment or notice with respect to the applicable underlying security unless otherwise provided in the accompanying prospectus supplement.

We shall be subrogated to all rights of the issuer of the applicable underlying securities in respect of any amounts paid by us pursuant to the provisions of a guarantee, except to the extent otherwise stated in a prospectus supplement. The guarantee shall continue to be effective or reinstated, as the case may be, if at any time any payment made by the issuer of the applicable underlying security is rescinded or must otherwise be returned upon the insolvency, bankruptcy or reorganization of GE, the issuer of the applicable underlying security or otherwise.

Table of Contents

ERISA MATTERS

GE has subsidiaries that provide services to many employee benefit plans, subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA) including entities such as collective investment funds, partnerships and separate accounts whose underlying assets include assets of such plans (collectively, Plans). GE and any direct or indirect subsidiary of GE may each be considered a party in interest within the meaning of ERISA, or a disqualified person under corresponding provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the Code), with respect to many Plans, as well as many individual retirement accounts and Keogh plans (also Plans). Prohibited transactions within the meaning of ERISA and the Code may result if any offered securities are acquired by a Plan as to which GE or any direct or indirect subsidiary of GE is a party in interest, unless such offered securities are acquired pursuant to an applicable exemption. There are a number of statutory exemptions to the prohibited transaction rules, including the service provider exemption provided by Section 408(b)(17) of ERISA and Section 4975(d)(20) of the Code, which applies to certain transaction if the party in interest has such status solely due to its (or an affiliate s) provision of services to the Plan and specified conditions are satisfied. In addition, the U.S. Department of Labor has issued several prohibited transaction class exemptions (PTCEs) that may provide exemptive relief for direct or indirect prohibited transactions resulting from the purchase or holding of the offered securities. Five of those class exemptions are PTCE 96-23 (for certain transactions determined by in-house asset managers), PTCE 95-60 (for certain transactions involving insurance company general accounts), PTCE 91-38 (for certain transactions involving bank collective investment funds), PTCE 90-1 (for certain transactions involving insurance company separate accounts), and PTCE 84-14 (for certain transactions determined by independent qualified asset managers). Accordingly, each purchaser and each transferee using the assets of a Plan subject to ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code to acquire the offered securities will be deemed to have represented that the acquisition and continued holding of the offered securities will be covered by a statutory prohibited transaction exemption or a Department of Labor PTCE.

Employee benefit plans that are governmental plans (as defined in Section 3(32) of ERISA), certain church plans (as defined in Section 3(33) of ERISA) and non-U.S. plans (as described in Section 4(b)(4) of ERISA) are not subject to these prohibited transaction rules of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code, but may be subject to similar rules under other applicable laws or documents (Similar Laws). Accordingly, each purchaser or holder of the offered securities shall be deemed to have represented that such purchase and holding is not prohibited under applicable Similar Laws or rules. Any employee benefit plan or other entity to which such provisions of ERISA, the Code or any Similar Laws apply proposing to acquire the offered securities should consult with its legal counsel. The sale of the offered securities to any Plan is in no respect a representation by us or any of our affiliates or representatives that such an investment meets all relevant legal requirements with respect to investments by Plans generally or any particular Plan, or that such an investment is appropriate for Plans generally or any particular Plan.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the offered securities (a) through agents; (b) through underwriters or dealers; (c) directly to one or more purchasers; or (d) through a combination of any of these methods of sale. We will identify the specific plan of distribution, including any underwriters, dealers, agents or direct purchasers and their compensation in a prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

VALIDITY OF THE SECURITIES

Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, New York, New York, will provide opinions regarding the authorization and validity of the securities for us, and Davis Polk & Wardwell, New York, New York will pass upon the validity of the securities for the underwriters.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of GE as of December 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006 and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2007, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Annual Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting) as of December 31, 2007 have been incorporated by reference herein in reliance upon the report of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

The audit report on the consolidated financial statements, dated February 20, 2008, except as to page 11 and notes 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30, which are as of October 1, 2008, which report appears in the Form 8-K of GE dated October 8, 2008, refers to a change in the methods of accounting for uncertainty in income taxes and for a change or projected change in the timing of cash flows relating to income taxes generated by leveraged lease transactions in 2007, and to a change in the methods of accounting for pension and other post-retirement benefits and for share-based compensation in 2006.