

Gevo, Inc.
Form 424B5
February 13, 2018
Table of Contents

**Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
Registration File No. 333-211370**

Prospectus Supplement

(To Prospectus dated August 2, 2016)

Gevo, Inc.

Up to \$5,000,000

Common Stock

We have entered into an At-the-Market Offering Agreement (the *Sales Agreement*) with H.C. Wainwright & Co., LLC (*H.C. Wainwright*) relating to shares of our common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, offered by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. In accordance with the terms of the Sales Agreement, we may from time to time offer and sell shares of our common stock having an aggregate offering price of up to \$5,000,000 through H.C. Wainwright as our sales agent.

Sales of the shares of common stock, if any, may be made by means of transactions that are deemed to be *at-the-market* offerings, as defined in Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the *Securities Act*), including ordinary brokers' transactions on the Nasdaq Capital Market (*Nasdaq*) or other trading market. The sales agent will receive from us a commission of 1.0% based on the gross sales price per share for any shares sold through the sales agent under the Sales Agreement.

Under the terms of the Sales Agreement, we also may sell shares of our common stock to the sales agent as principal for its own account at a price agreed upon at the time of sale. If we sell shares to the sales agent as principal, we will enter into a separate terms agreement with the sales agent, and we will describe this agreement in a separate prospectus supplement or pricing supplement. In connection with the sale of shares of our common stock on our behalf, the sales agent may be deemed to be an *underwriter* within the meaning of the Securities Act, and the compensation paid to the sales agent may be deemed to be underwriting commissions or discounts.

The sales agent is not required to sell any specific number or dollar amount of shares of our common stock, but, subject to the terms and conditions of the Sales Agreement and unless otherwise agreed by us and the sales agent, the sales agent will use their commercially reasonable efforts to sell the shares offered as our sales agent. There is no arrangement for funds to be received in any escrow, trust or similar arrangement.

Our common stock is traded on the Nasdaq Capital Market under the symbol GEVO. On February 12, 2018, the last reported sale price of our common stock on the Nasdaq Capital Market was \$0.49 per share.

The aggregate market value of our outstanding common stock held by non-affiliates, or public float, is approximately \$15.8 million, based on the closing price of our common stock as reported on the Nasdaq Capital Market on January 4, 2018, as calculated in accordance with General Instruction I.B.6 of Form S-3. Pursuant to General Instruction I.B.6, in no event will we sell our common stock in a public primary offering with a value exceeding one-third of our public float in any 12-month period unless our public float subsequently rises to \$75.0 million or more. We have not offered any securities pursuant to General Instruction I.B.6 during the 12 calendar months prior to and including the date of this prospectus supplement.

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. Before buying any securities, you should review carefully the risks and uncertainties described under the heading Risk Factors beginning on page S-6 of this prospectus supplement, on page 4 of the accompanying prospectus and in the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement.

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

H.C. Wainwright & Co.

The date of this prospectus supplement is February 13, 2018.

Table of Contents**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	Page
PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT	
<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT</u>	S-i
<u>CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	S-ii
<u>PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY</u>	S-1
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	S-6
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	S-16
<u>DESCRIPTION OF OUR COMMON STOCK</u>	S-17
<u>MATERIAL UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES</u>	S-18
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	S-23
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	S-24
<u>EXPERTS</u>	S-24
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</u>	S-24
<u>INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE</u>	S-24
PROSPECTUS	
<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	1
<u>CONVENTIONS THAT APPLY TO THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	1
<u>GEVO, INC.</u>	3
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	4
<u>CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	5
<u>THE SECURITIES WE MAY OFFER</u>	7
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u>	10
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	10
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u>	11
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES</u>	13
<u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u>	20
<u>DESCRIPTION OF UNITS</u>	23
<u>DESCRIPTION OF OUTSTANDING WARRANTS</u>	25
<u>LEGAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES</u>	30
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	33
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	35
<u>EXPERTS</u>	35
<u>MATERIAL CHANGES</u>	35
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</u>	35

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are part of a registration statement that we filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) utilizing a shelf registration process. This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, including the documents incorporated by reference herein, which describes the specific terms of this offering. The second part, the accompanying prospectus, including the documents incorporated by reference therein, provides more general information. Generally, when we refer to the prospectus, we are referring to both parts of this document combined. We urge you to carefully read this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein, before buying any of the securities being offered under this prospectus supplement. This prospectus supplement may add or update information contained in the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference therein. To the extent that any statement we make in this prospectus supplement is inconsistent with statements made in the accompanying prospectus or any documents incorporated by reference therein that were filed before the date of this prospectus supplement, the statements made in this prospectus supplement will be deemed to modify or supersede those made in the accompanying prospectus and such documents incorporated by reference therein.

You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus or incorporated by reference herein or therein. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. No dealer, salesperson or other person is authorized to give any information or to represent anything not contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. You should not rely on any unauthorized information or representation. This prospectus supplement is an offer to sell only the securities offered hereby, and only under circumstances and in jurisdictions where it is lawful to do so. You should assume that the information in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is accurate only as of the date on the front of the applicable document and that any information we have incorporated by reference is accurate only as of the date of the document incorporated by reference, regardless of the date of delivery of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus, or the date of any sale of a security.

Unless otherwise mentioned or unless the context requires otherwise, all references in this prospectus to the Company, we, us, our, and Gevo refer to Gevo, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and its consolidated subsidiaries.

Table of Contents

CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act). These statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other important factors that may cause our actual results, levels of activity, performance or achievements to differ materially from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements may include, but are not limited to, statements relating to the achievement of advances in our technology platform, the success of our Retrofit production model, the availability of suitable and cost-competitive feedstocks, our ability to gain market acceptance for our products, the expected cost-competitiveness and relative performance attributes of our isobutanol and the products derived from it, additional competition, changes in economic conditions, the future price and volatility of petroleum and products derived from petroleum and statements regarding our intended uses of the proceeds of the securities offered hereby. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terminology such as may, will, should, expect, plan, anticipate, believe, estimate, predict, potential or continue, the negative of such terms or other comparable terminology.

Forward-looking statements reflect our current views about future events, are based on assumptions, and are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties. Many important factors could cause actual results, performance or achievements to differ materially from the results, performance or achievements expressed in or implied by our forward-looking statements, including the factors listed below. Many of the factors that will determine future results, performance or achievements are beyond our ability to control or predict. The following are important factors, among others, that could cause actual results, performance or achievements to differ materially from the results, performance or achievements reflected in our forward-looking statements:

our intent and ability to construct our first commercial hydrocarbons plant;

our ability to continue as a going concern;

our ability to maintain listing of our common stock on Nasdaq;

our ability to timely repay or restructure our outstanding debt obligations;

our ability to produce full-scale commercial quantities of isobutanol and/or ethanol in a timely and economic manner;

our ability to effectively use the net proceeds from this offering;

fluctuations in the market price of petroleum;

fluctuations in the market price of corn and other feedstocks;

unexpected delays, operational difficulties, cost-overruns or failures in the Retrofit process;

our ability to successfully identify and acquire access to additional facilities suitable for efficient Retrofitting;

our ability to successfully commercialize isobutanol and the products derived from it;

our ability to market our isobutanol to potential customers;

our ability to obtain regulatory approval for the use of our isobutanol and the products derived from our isobutanol, including, without limitation, our renewable jet fuel, in our target markets;

our ability to adequately protect our intellectual property, or the loss of some of our intellectual property rights through costly litigation or administrative proceedings;

our ability to transition our preliminary commitments into definitive supply and distribution agreements or to negotiate sufficient long-term supply agreements for our production of isobutanol; and

general economic conditions and inflation, interest rate movements and access to capital.

Table of Contents

The forward-looking statements contained herein reflect our views and assumptions only as of the date such forward-looking statements are made. You should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements. Except as required by law, we assume no responsibility for updating any forward-looking statements nor do we intend to do so. Our actual results, performance or achievements could differ materially from the results expressed in, or implied by, these forward-looking statements. The risks included in this section are not exhaustive. Additional factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements are set forth in the section entitled "Risk Factors" beginning on page S-6 of this prospectus supplement.

S-iii

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY

This summary is not complete and does not contain all of the information that you should consider before investing in the securities offered by this prospectus supplement. You should read this summary together with the entire prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including our financial statements, the notes to those financial statements and the other documents that are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, before making an investment decision. See the Risk Factors section of this prospectus supplement beginning on page S-6 for a discussion of the risks involved in investing in our securities.

Our Business

We are a renewable chemicals and next generation biofuels company. We have developed proprietary technology that uses a combination of synthetic biology, metabolic engineering, chemistry and chemical engineering to focus primarily on the production of renewable isobutanol as well as related products from renewable feedstocks. Isobutanol is a four-carbon alcohol that can be sold directly for use as a specialty chemical in the production of solvents, paints and coatings or as a value-added gasoline blendstock. Isobutanol can also be converted into butenes using dehydration chemistry deployed in the refining and petrochemicals industries today. The convertibility of isobutanol into butenes is important because butenes are primary hydrocarbon building blocks used in the production of hydrocarbon fuels, including isooctane, isooctene and alcohol-to-jet-fuel (ATJ), as well as lubricants, polyester, rubber, plastics, fibers and other polymers. We believe that the products derived from isobutanol have potential applications in substantially all of the global hydrocarbon fuels markets and in approximately 40% of the global petrochemicals markets.

In order to produce and sell isobutanol made from renewable sources, we have developed the Gevo Integrated Fermentation Technology® (GIFT®), an integrated technology platform for the efficient production and separation of renewable isobutanol. GIFT® consists of two components, proprietary biocatalysts that convert sugars derived from multiple renewable feedstocks into isobutanol through fermentation, and a proprietary separation unit that is designed to continuously separate isobutanol during the fermentation process. We developed our technology platform to be compatible with the existing approximately 25 billion gallons per year of global operating ethanol production capacity, as estimated by the Renewable Fuels Association.

GIFT® is designed to permit (i) the retrofit of existing ethanol capacity to produce isobutanol, ethanol or both products simultaneously or (ii) the addition of renewable isobutanol or ethanol production capabilities to a facility's existing ethanol production by adding additional fermentation capacity side-by-side with the facility's existing ethanol fermentation capacity (collectively referred to as Retrofit). Having the flexibility to switch between the production of isobutanol and ethanol, or produce both products simultaneously, should allow us to optimize asset utilization and cash flows at a facility by taking advantage of fluctuations in market conditions. GIFT® is also designed to allow relatively low capital expenditure Retrofits of existing ethanol facilities, enabling a relatively rapid route to isobutanol production from the fermentation of renewable feedstocks. Alternatively, GIFT® can be deployed at a greenfield or brownfield site to produce isobutanol only. We believe that our production route will be cost-efficient, will enable relatively rapid deployment of our technology platform and allow our isobutanol and related renewable products to be economically competitive with many of the petroleum-based products used in the chemicals and fuels markets today.

Recent Developments

Cash

At December 31, 2017, we had cash and cash equivalents of \$11.6 million. This amount is unaudited and preliminary, and does not present all information necessary for an understanding of our financial condition as of

S-1

Table of Contents

December 31, 2017. The review of our financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2017 is ongoing and could result in changes to this amount. Our financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2017 may not be available until after this offering is completed, and consequently may not be available to you prior to investing in this offering.

2022 Note Exchange

In January 2018, we entered into a private exchange agreement with a holder of our 7.5% convertible senior notes due July 2022 (the 2022 Notes) to exchange the remaining \$515,000 of outstanding principal amount of the 2022 Notes for 780,303 shares of our common stock. Upon completion of this exchange, the 2022 Notes were satisfied in their entirety and there are no remaining obligations under the 2022 Notes.

2018 Corporate Update

In January 2018, we announced that we are reaffirming our focus on the commercial development of renewable jet fuel, renewable isooctane, isobutanol and related products. Our goal in 2018 is to aggregate enough confirmed commercial off-take to support the capital expense of expanding our production facility based in Luverne, MN, (the Luverne Facility). In 2018, we expect to improve the cash flow out of the Luverne Facility by optimizing the plant s ethanol production processes, developing value added products for ethanol and animal feed produced at the plant and further reducing the cost of the plant s carbohydrate feedstock. These initiatives are also expected to benefit the cost of producing isobutanol, once isobutanol production resumes at the Luverne Facility at its current scale or when the isobutanol capacity is expanded at the Luverne Facility. There can be no assurance we will achieve any of these goals.

In addition, in January 2018, we announced that we are undertaking several initiatives to improve the cash flow profile of our business in 2018 compared to 2017. As a result of these initiatives, we expect our cash burn rate in 2018 to be at least 30% lower than 2017. We expect that this reduction in the cash burn rate, together with the net proceeds from this offering, should provide the Company with enough cash to fund operations into the first quarter of 2019.

This improvement is expected to be achieved by increasing sales of isobutanol into the ethanol-free marketplace, increasing sales of ATJ and isooctane produced out of our hydrocarbon demonstration plant based in Silsbee, TX, improving the cash flow profile at the Luverne Facility and reducing overall corporate expenses. The reduction in corporate expense is expected to be driven by a series of measures, as outlined below:

Mike Willis, our former Chief Financial Officer, resigned effective January 5, 2018 and entered into a mutual separation agreement with us. Gevo does not currently plan on replacing the Chief Financial Officer at this time. On January 5, 2018, our Board of Directors promoted Bradford K. Towne to Chief Accounting Officer.

Certain executive officers who are remaining with us have volunteered to take a reduction in compensation, including Dr. Patrick Gruber, our Chief Executive Officer, who has agreed, at his discretion, to a salary reduction of 30% in 2018 and foregoing any potential 2017 annual cash bonus.

We are reducing our overall headcount at our headquarters by approximately 40%, as compared to the peak employee level in 2017, and all Gevo employees will forego their 2017 annual cash bonuses.

A systematic review of all non-employee expenses across the company has been undertaken, and reductions have or will be made wherever reasonably possible.

Other Business Developments

On December 11, 2017, we announced that GE Aviation had commenced jet engine combustor component testing with a jet fuel comprised 100% of our renewable ATJ. The testing is being performed as part of the

S-2

Table of Contents

Federal Aviation Authority's (FAA) Continuous Lower Energy, Emissions and Noise Program (CLEEN). CLEEN is the FAA's principal environmental effort to accelerate the development of new aircraft, engine technologies, and to advance sustainable alternative jet fuels, in conjunction with aviation industry leaders such as GE Aviation. Specifically, this testing is designed to enable the greater displacement of petroleum-based jet fuel by bio-based alternative products. Bio-based hydrocarbon fuels have similar performance characteristics to the petroleum-based fuels used today, albeit with reductions in particulate matter and other air quality related emissions. Some bio-based jet fuels, such as our ATJ, have the potential to improve performance, such as providing greater energy density which translates into better mileage.

On November 8, 2017, we announced that our ATJ derived from renewable isobutanol was used by nine airlines for Fly Green Day, sponsored by the O'Hare Fuel Committee, at Chicago O'Hare International Airport. This event was the first time renewable jet fuel has been supplied at Chicago O'Hare using the existing airport fueling infrastructure, such as pipelines, terminals and tankage. To date, airlines and airports have generally relied on alternative means of supplying renewable jet fuel to the wing, usually trucking jet fuel on site for blending and fueling. For Fly Green Day, Air BP blended Gevo's ATJ with regular fossil-based Jet A fuel, certified its quality and then supplied its customers through the airport's main fuel hydrant system. Airlines that participated in Fly Green Day included Lufthansa, United Airlines, Etihad, Cathay Pacific Airways, Emirates, Japan Airlines, Korean Air, Atlas Air and FedEx.

On February 8, 2018, we announced that we have amended our existing isobutanol supply agreement with Musket Corporation (Musket) to provide Musket with the exclusive right to sell our renewable isobutanol within a 300 mile radius of Houston, Texas. This amendment establishes a market region that encompasses Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Oklahoma, Louisiana, as well as the majority of South and East Texas.

Information Regarding Liquidity

For the nine months ended September 30, 2017, we incurred a consolidated net loss of \$20.2 million and had an accumulated deficit of \$397.0 million at September 30, 2017. Our cash and cash equivalents at December 31, 2017 totaled \$11.6 million, which are expected to be used for the following: (i) operating activities at the Luverne Facility; (ii) operating activities at our corporate headquarters in Colorado, including research and development; (iii) capital improvements primarily associated with the Luverne Facility; (iv) costs associated with optimizing isobutanol production technology; (v) exploration of restructuring, strategic alternatives and new financings; and (vi) debt service, principal prepayment and repayment obligations.

We expect to incur future net losses as we continue to fund the development and commercialization of our product candidates. To date, we have financed our operations primarily with proceeds from multiple sales of equity and debt securities, borrowings under debt facilities and product sales. Our audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2016, were prepared under the assumption that we would continue our operations as a going concern. Our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ended December 31, 2016 included a going concern emphasis of matter paragraph in its report on our financial statements as of, and for the year ended, December 31, 2016, indicating that the amount of working capital at December 31, 2016 was not sufficient to meet the cash requirements to fund planned operations through twelve months after the date our audited financial statements were issued on March 28, 2017 without additional sources of cash, which raises substantial doubt about our ability to continue as a going concern. Our inability to continue as a going concern may potentially affect our rights and obligations under our debt obligations and may lead to bankruptcy. Our independent registered public accounting firm may include a similar going concern emphasis of matter paragraph in its report on our audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2017.

Our transition to profitability is dependent upon, among other things, the successful development and commercialization of our products and product candidates and the achievement of a level of revenues adequate to

S-3

Table of Contents

support our existing cost structure. We may never achieve profitability or generate positive cash flows, and unless and until we do, we will continue to need to raise additional cash. We intend to fund future operations through additional private and/or public offerings of debt or equity securities. In addition, we may seek additional capital through arrangements with strategic partners or from other sources. Notwithstanding these efforts, there can be no assurance that we will be able to raise additional funds, restructure our indebtedness or achieve or sustain profitability or positive cash flows from operations.

Debt Maturities and Exchanges

In June 2017, we issued our 12% convertible senior secured notes due 2020 (the 2020 Notes) in exchange for our outstanding 12.0% convertible senior secured notes due 2017 (2017 Notes). As of September 30, 2017, the outstanding principal on our 2020 Notes was \$16.6 million. The 2020 Notes are scheduled to mature on March 15, 2020.

As noted above, in January 2018, we entered into a private exchange agreement with a holder of our 2022 Notes to exchange the remaining \$515,000 of outstanding principal amount of the 2022 Notes for 780,303 shares of our common stock. Upon completion of this exchange, the 2022 Notes were satisfied in their entirety and there are no remaining obligations under the 2022 Notes.

Our Corporate Information

We were incorporated in Delaware in June 2005 under the name Methanotech, Inc. and filed an amendment to our certificate of incorporation changing our name to Gevo, Inc. on March 29, 2006. Our principal executive offices are located at 345 Inverness Drive South, Building C, Suite 310, Englewood, Colorado 80112, and our telephone number is (303) 858-8358. We maintain an internet website at www.gevo.com. Information contained in or accessible through our website does not constitute part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

Table of Contents

The Offering

Issuer	Gevo, Inc.
Common stock offered by us	Shares of common stock having an aggregate offering price of up to \$5,000,000.
Plan of Distribution	At-the-market offering that may be made from time to time through our sales agent, H.C. Wainwright. We may also sell shares of our common stock to H.C. Wainwright as principal for its own account, at a price per share agreed upon at the time of sale. If we sell shares to H.C. Wainwright as principal, we will enter into a separate terms agreement setting forth the terms of such transaction, and we will describe the agreement in a separate prospectus or pricing supplement. See Plan of Distribution.
Use of proceeds	We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering to fund working capital and for other general corporate purposes, which may include the repayment of outstanding indebtedness.
Nasdaq Capital Market symbol	GEVO
Transfer Agent	American Stock Transfer & Trust Company
Risk factors	This investment involves a high degree of risk. See Risk Factors beginning on page S-6 of this prospectus supplement for a discussion of factors you should carefully consider before deciding to invest in our securities.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

*An investment in our securities involves a high degree of risk. Prior to making a decision about investing in our securities, you should carefully consider the following risks and uncertainties, as well as those discussed under the caption **Risk Factors** in the accompanying prospectus, in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016 and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly periods ended June 30, 2017 and September 30, 2017. If any of the risks described in this prospectus supplement or accompanying prospectus, or the risks described in any documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus, actually occur, our business, prospects, financial condition or operating results could be harmed. In that case, the trading price of our common stock and warrants could decline, and you may lose all or part of your investment. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently believe are immaterial may also impair our business operations and our liquidity. You should also refer to the other information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus or incorporated by reference herein or therein, including our financial statements and the notes to those statements and the information set forth under the heading **Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements**.*

Risks Related to this Offering and our Common Stock

We have broad discretion in the use of the net proceeds from this offering and may not use them effectively, which could cause the value of your investment to decline.

Our management will have broad discretion in the application of the net proceeds of this offering. You will not have the opportunity to influence our decisions on how to use our net proceeds from this offering. Our failure to apply the net proceeds effectively could affect our ability to continue to develop and sell our products and grow our business, which could cause the value of your investment to decline.

The common stock offered hereby may be sold in at-the market offerings, and investors who buy shares at different times will likely pay different prices.

Investors who purchase shares under this offering at different times will likely pay different prices, and so may experience different outcomes in their investment results. We will have discretion, subject to market demand, to vary the timing, prices, and numbers of shares sold, and there is no minimum or maximum sales price. Investors may experience declines in the value of their shares as a result of share sales made at prices lower than the prices they paid.

The market price of our common stock may be adversely affected by the future issuance and sale of additional shares of our common stock, including pursuant to the Sales Agreement, or by our announcement that such issuances and sales may occur.

We cannot predict the size of future issuances or sales of shares of our common stock, including those made pursuant to the Sales Agreement with the sales agent or in connection with future acquisitions or capital raising activities, or the effect, if any, that such issuances or sales may have on the market price of our common stock. In addition, the sales agent will not engage in any transactions that stabilize the price of our common stock. The issuance and sale of substantial amounts of shares of our common stock, including issuances and sales pursuant to the Sales Agreement, or announcement that such issuances and sales may occur, could adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

Our stock price may be volatile, and your investment in our securities could suffer a decline in value.

The market price of shares of our common stock has experienced significant price and volume fluctuations. For example, from February 19, 2011, when we became a public company, through February 6, 2018, the closing sales price for one share of our common stock (as adjusted for reverse stock splits) has reached a high of \$7,664.62 and a low of \$0.46.

S-6

Table of Contents

We cannot predict whether the price of our common stock will rise or fall. A variety of factors may have a significant effect on our stock price, including:

actual or anticipated fluctuations in our liquidity, financial condition and operating results;

the position of our cash and cash equivalents;

actual or anticipated changes in our growth rate relative to our competitors;

actual or anticipated fluctuations in our competitors' operating results or changes in their growth rate;

announcements of technological innovations by us, our partners or our competitors;

announcements by us, our partners or our competitors of significant acquisitions, strategic partnerships, joint ventures or capital commitments;

the entry into, modification or termination of licensing arrangements, marketing arrangements, and/or research, development, commercialization, supply, off-take or distribution arrangements;

our ability to consistently produce commercial quantities of isobutanol at the Luverne Facility and ramp up production to nameplate capacity;

our ability to repay our indebtedness when it becomes due;

our ability to refinance, restructure or convert our current and future indebtedness;

additions or losses of customers or partners;

our ability to obtain certain regulatory approvals for the use of our isobutanol in various fuels and chemicals markets;

commodity prices, including oil, ethanol and corn prices;

additions or departures of key management or scientific personnel;

competition from existing products or new products that may emerge;

issuance of new or updated research reports by securities or industry analysts;

fluctuations in the valuation of companies perceived by investors to be comparable to us;

litigation involving us, our general industry or both;

disputes or other developments related to proprietary rights, including patents, litigation matters and our ability to obtain patent protection for our technologies;

announcements or expectations of additional financing efforts or the pursuit of strategic alternatives;

changes in existing laws, regulations and policies applicable to our business and products, including the Renewable Fuel Standard program, and the adoption of or failure to adopt carbon emissions regulation;

sales of our common stock or equity-linked securities, such as warrants, by us or our stockholders;

share price and volume fluctuations attributable to inconsistent trading volume levels of our shares;

general market conditions in our industry; and

general economic and market conditions, including the recent financial crisis.

Furthermore, the stock markets have experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations that have affected and continue to affect the market prices of equity securities of many companies. These fluctuations often have been unrelated or disproportionate to the operating performance of those companies. These broad market and industry fluctuations, as well as general economic, political and market conditions such as recessions, interest rate changes or international currency fluctuations, may negatively impact the market price of shares of our

Table of Contents

common stock, regardless of our operating performance, and cause the value of your investment to decline. In addition, the existence of our 2020 Notes and our outstanding warrants may encourage short selling in our common stock by market participants because the conversion of the 2020 Notes or exercise of the warrants could depress the price of our common stock.

Additionally, in the past, companies that have experienced volatility in the market price of their stock have been subject to securities class action litigation or other derivative shareholder lawsuits. We may be the target of this type of litigation in the future. Securities litigation against us could result in substantial costs and divert our management's attention from other business concerns, which could seriously harm our business regardless of the outcome.

The price of our common stock could also be affected by possible sales of common stock by investors who view the 2020 Notes or warrants as a more attractive means of equity participation in us and by hedging or arbitrage activity involving our common stock.

Sales of a substantial number of shares of our common stock or securities linked to our common stock, such as the 2020 Notes and warrants (should an established market for such securities then exist), in the public market could occur at any time. These sales, or the perception in the market that such sales may occur, could reduce the market price of our common stock.

In addition, certain holders of our outstanding common stock (including shares of our common stock issuable upon the conversion of the 2020 Notes or upon exercise of certain outstanding warrants) have rights, subject to certain conditions, to require us to file registration statements covering their shares and to include their shares in registration statements that we may file for ourselves or other stockholders.

We do not anticipate paying cash dividends, and accordingly, stockholders must rely on stock appreciation for any return on their investment.

We have never paid cash dividends on our common stock and we do not expect to pay cash dividends on our common stock at any time in the foreseeable future. The future payment of dividends directly depends upon our future earnings, capital requirements, financial requirements and other factors that our board of directors will consider. As a result, only appreciation of the price of our common stock, which may never occur, will provide a return to stockholders. Investors seeking cash dividends should not invest in our common stock.

We are subject to anti-takeover provisions in our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, our amended and restated bylaws and under Delaware law that could delay or prevent an acquisition of the Company, even if the acquisition would be beneficial to our stockholders.

Provisions in our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and our amended and restated bylaws may delay or prevent an acquisition of the Company. Among other things, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws provide for a board of directors that is divided into three classes with staggered three-year terms, provide that all stockholder action must be effected at a duly called meeting of the stockholders and not by a consent in writing, and further provide that only our board of directors may call a special meeting of the stockholders. These provisions may also frustrate or prevent any attempts by our stockholders to replace or remove our current management by making it more difficult for stockholders to replace members of our board of directors, who are responsible for appointing the members of our management team. Furthermore, because we are incorporated in Delaware, we are governed by the provisions of Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, which prohibits, with some exceptions, stockholders owning in excess of 15% of our outstanding voting stock from merging or combining with us. Finally, our charter documents establish advance notice requirements for nominations for

election to our board of directors and for proposing matters that can be acted upon at stockholder meetings. Although we believe these provisions together provide an opportunity to receive higher bids by requiring potential acquirers to negotiate with our board of directors, they would apply even if an offer to acquire the Company may be considered beneficial by some stockholders.

S-8

Table of Contents

We may not be able to comply with all applicable listing requirements or standards of the Nasdaq Capital Market and Nasdaq could delist our common stock.

Our common stock is listed on the Nasdaq Capital Market. In order to maintain that listing, we must satisfy minimum financial and other continued listing requirements and standards.

On June 21, 2017, we received a deficiency letter from the Listing Qualifications Department of the Nasdaq Stock Market), notifying us that, for the prior 30 consecutive business days, the closing bid price of our common stock was not maintained at the minimum required closing bid price of at least \$1.00 per share as required for continued listing on the Nasdaq Capital Market. In accordance with Nasdaq Listing Rules, we had an initial compliance period of 180 calendar days, to regain compliance with this requirement. On December 20, 2017, the Nasdaq Stock Market granted us an additional 180 calendar days, or until June 18, 2018, to regain compliance. To regain compliance, the closing bid price of our common stock must be \$1.00 per share or more for a minimum of 10 consecutive business days at any time before June 18, 2018. The Nasdaq determination to grant the second compliance period was based on our meeting of the continued listing requirement for market value of publicly held shares and all other applicable requirements for initial listing on the Nasdaq Capital Market, with the exception of the bid price requirement, and our written notice of our intention to cure the deficiency during the second compliance period by effecting a reverse stock split, if necessary.

We cannot provide any assurance that our stock price will recover within the permitted grace period. In the event that our common stock is not eligible for quotation on another market or exchange, trading of our common stock could be conducted in the over-the-counter market or on an electronic bulletin board established for unlisted securities such as the Pink Sheets or the OTC Bulletin Board. In such event, it could become more difficult to dispose of, or obtain accurate price quotations for, our common stock, and there would likely be a reduction in our coverage by security analysts and the news media, which could cause the price of our common stock to decline further. In addition, it may be difficult for us to raise additional capital if we are not listed on a major exchange.

Furthermore, it would be a fundamental change under the indenture governing our 2020 Notes if our common stock is not listed on a national securities exchange. In such circumstance we would be required to offer to repurchase the 2020 Notes at 100% of principal plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but not including, the repurchase date. We would also be required to pay the holders of the 2020 Notes a fundamental change make-whole payment equal to the aggregate amount of interest that would have otherwise been payable on such 2020 Notes, to, but not including, the maturity date of such 2020 Notes.

Certain Risks Relating to our Business

There is substantial doubt about our ability to continue as a going concern, which may hinder our ability to obtain further financing.

Our audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2016, were prepared under the assumption that we would continue our operations as a going concern. Our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ended December 31, 2016 included a going concern emphasis of matter paragraph in its report on our financial statements as of, and for the year ended, December 31, 2016, indicating that the amount of working capital at December 31, 2016 was not sufficient to meet the cash requirements to fund planned operations through the period that is one year after the date our 2016 financial statements were issued without additional sources of cash, which raises substantial doubt about our ability to continue as a going concern at December 31, 2017. Uncertainty concerning our ability to continue as a going concern may hinder our ability to obtain future financing. Continued operations and our ability to continue as a going concern are dependent on our ability to obtain additional funding in

the near future and thereafter, and there are no assurances that such funding will be available to us at all or will be available in sufficient amounts or on reasonable terms. Our financial statements do not include any adjustments that may result from the outcome of this uncertainty.

S-9

Table of Contents

Without additional funds from private and/or public offerings of debt or equity securities, sales of assets, sales of our licenses of intellectual property or technologies, or other transactions, we will exhaust our resources and will be unable to continue operations. If we cannot continue as a viable entity, we may be forced to seek bankruptcy protection and our stockholders would likely lose most or all of their investment in us.

We have a history of net losses, and we may not achieve or maintain profitability.

We have incurred net losses of \$20.2 million, \$37.2 million, \$36.2 million, and \$41.1 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015, and 2014, respectively. As of September 30, 2017, we had an accumulated deficit of \$397.0 million. We expect to incur losses and negative cash flows from operating activities for the foreseeable future. We currently derive the majority of our revenue from the sale of isobutanol, ethanol and related products at the Luverne Facility, although over certain periods of time, we may and have operated the Luverne Facility for the sole production of ethanol and related products to maximize cash flows.

Furthermore, we expect to spend significant amounts on the further development and commercial implementation of our technology. We also expect to spend significant amounts acquiring and deploying additional equipment to attain final product specifications that may be required by future customers, acquiring or otherwise gaining access to additional ethanol plants and Retrofitting them for isobutanol production, on marketing, general and administrative expenses associated with our planned growth, on management of operations as a public company, and on debt service obligations. In addition, the cost of preparing, filing, prosecuting, maintaining and enforcing patent, trademark and other intellectual property rights and defending ourselves against claims by others that we may be violating their intellectual property rights may be significant.

As a result, even if our revenues increase substantially, we expect that our expenses will exceed revenues for the foreseeable future. We do not expect to achieve profitability during the foreseeable future, and may never achieve it. If we fail to achieve profitability, or if the time required to achieve profitability is longer than we anticipate, we may not be able to continue our business. Even if we do achieve profitability, we may not be able to sustain or increase profitability on a quarterly or annual basis.

We may be unable to successfully negotiate final, binding terms related to our current non-binding isobutanol, ATJ and other hydrocarbon supply and distribution agreements, which could harm our commercial prospects.

From time-to-time, we agree to preliminary terms regarding supplying isobutanol or the products derived from it to various companies for their use or further distribution. We may be unable to negotiate final terms with these or other companies in a timely manner, or at all, and there is no guarantee that the terms of any final agreement will be the same or similar to those currently contemplated in our preliminary agreements. Final terms may include less favorable pricing structures or volume commitments, more expensive delivery or purity requirements, reduced contract durations and other adverse changes. Delays in negotiating final contracts could slow our initial isobutanol commercialization, and failure to agree to definitive terms for sales of sufficient volumes of isobutanol could prevent us from growing our business. To the extent that terms in our initial supply and distribution contracts may influence negotiations regarding future contracts, the failure to negotiate favorable final terms related to our current preliminary agreements could have an especially negative impact on our growth and profitability. Additionally, we have not demonstrated that we can meet the production levels contemplated in our current non-binding supply agreements. If our production scale-up proceeds more slowly than we expect, or if we encounter difficulties in successfully completing plant Retrofits, potential customers, including those with whom we have current letters of intent, may be less willing to negotiate definitive supply agreements, or demand terms less favorable to us, and our performance may suffer.

We may need to cease production at the Luverne Facility due to the condition of two of our fermentation vessels.

As an older production facility, the Luverne Facility is more susceptible to maintenance issues that result in production challenges than newer production facilities. In the second quarter of 2017, we hired a third-party

S-10

Table of Contents

engineering firm to test the structural integrity of two of our oldest fermentation vessels. These fermentation vessels are fabricated from carbon steel and are dedicated to ethanol production. Currently it is estimated that these two fermentation vessels likely have approximately two years and three months, respectively, of useful life remaining under the current operating strategy unless they are replaced or repaired. It is possible that the condition of the two affected fermentation vessels could force us to cease isobutanol production or to completely cease all production activities at the Luverne Facility for an extended period of time. Any such production stoppages or costs incurred to repair or replace such vessels could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We have substantial indebtedness outstanding and may incur additional indebtedness in the future. Our indebtedness exposes us to risks that could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

In June 2017, we issued our 2020 Notes in exchange for our outstanding 2017 Notes. As of September 30, 2017, the outstanding principal on our 2020 Notes was \$16.6 million. As noted above, in January 2018, we entered into a private exchange agreement with a holder of our 2022 Notes to exchange the remaining \$515,000 of outstanding principal amount of the 2022 Notes for 780,303 shares of our common stock. Upon completion of this exchange, the 2022 Notes were satisfied in their entirety and there are no remaining obligations under the 2022 Notes. In addition, we and any current and future subsidiaries of ours may incur substantial additional debt in the future, subject to the specified limitations in our existing financing documents and the indenture governing our 2020 Notes. If new debt is added to our or any of our subsidiaries' debt levels, the risks described in herein and in the documents incorporated by reference herein could intensify.

Our current and future indebtedness could have significant negative consequences for our business, results of operations and financial condition, including:

increasing our vulnerability to adverse economic and industry conditions;

limiting our ability to obtain additional financing;

requiring the dedication of a substantial portion of our cash flow from operations and financings, including this offering, to service our indebtedness, thereby reducing the amount of our cash flow available for other purposes;

limiting our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes in our business; and

placing us at a possible competitive disadvantage with less leveraged competitors and competitors that may have better access to capital resources.

We cannot assure you that we will continue to maintain sufficient cash reserves or that our business will generate cash flow from operations at levels sufficient to permit us to pay principal, premium, if any, and interest on our indebtedness, or that our cash needs will not increase. If we are unable to generate sufficient cash flow or otherwise obtain funds necessary to make required payments, or if we fail to comply with the various requirements of our

existing indebtedness or any other indebtedness which we may incur in the future, we would be in default, which could permit the holders of our indebtedness, including the 2020 Notes, to accelerate the maturity of such indebtedness. Any default under such indebtedness could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

In particular, the 2020 Notes are secured by liens on substantially all of our assets, including our intellectual property. If we are unable to satisfy our obligations under such instruments, the holder could foreclose on our assets, including our intellectual property. Any such foreclosure could force us to substantially curtail or cease our operations which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

S-11

Table of Contents

We will require substantial additional financing to achieve our goals, and a failure to obtain this capital when needed or on acceptable terms could force us to delay, limit, reduce or terminate our development and commercialization efforts.

Significant portions of our resources have been dedicated to research and development, as well as demonstrating the effectiveness of our technology through the Retrofit of the Luverne Facility. We believe that we will continue to expend substantial resources for the foreseeable future on further developing our technologies, developing future markets for our isobutanol and accessing and Retrofitting facilities necessary for the production of isobutanol on a commercial scale. These expenditures may include costs associated with research and development, accessing existing ethanol plants, Retrofitting or otherwise modifying the plants to produce isobutanol, obtaining government and regulatory approvals, acquiring or constructing storage facilities and negotiating supply agreements for the isobutanol we produce. In addition, other unanticipated costs may arise. Because the costs of developing our technology at a commercial scale are highly uncertain, we cannot reasonably estimate the amounts necessary to successfully commercialize our production.

To date, we have funded our operations primarily through equity offerings, issuances of debt, borrowing under our secured debt financing arrangements and revenues earned primarily from the sale of ethanol. Based on our current plans and expectations, we will require additional funding to achieve our goals. In addition, the cost of preparing, filing, prosecuting, maintaining and enforcing patent, trademark and other intellectual property rights and defending against claims by others that we may be violating their intellectual property rights may be significant. Moreover, our plans and expectations may change as a result of factors currently unknown to us, and we may need additional funds sooner than planned and may seek to raise additional funds through public or private debt or equity financings in the near future. We may also choose to seek additional capital sooner than required due to favorable market conditions or strategic considerations.

Our future capital requirements will depend on many factors, including:

the timing of, and costs involved in developing and optimizing our technologies for full-scale commercial production of isobutanol;

the timing of, and costs involved in accessing existing ethanol plants;

the timing of, and costs involved in Retrofitting the plants we access with our technologies;

the costs involved in establishing enhanced yeast seed trains, including at the Luverne Facility;

the costs involved in acquiring and deploying additional equipment to attain final product specifications including at the Luverne Facility, that may be required by future customers;

the costs involved in increasing our isobutanol production capacity, including at the Luverne Facility;

the cost and timing to expand the Luverne Facility into our first commercial hydrocarbons facility;

the cost of operating, maintaining and increasing production capacity of the Retrofitted plants;

our ability to negotiate agreements supplying suitable biomass to our plants, and the timing and terms of those agreements;

the timing of, and the costs involved in developing adequate storage facilities for the isobutanol we produce;

our ability to gain market acceptance for isobutanol as a specialty chemical, gasoline blendstock and as a raw material for the production of hydrocarbons;

our ability to negotiate supply agreements for the isobutanol we produce, and the timing and terms of those agreements, including terms related to sales price;

our ability to negotiate sales of our isobutanol for full-scale production of butenes and other industrially useful chemicals and fuels, and the timing and terms of those sales, including terms related to sales price;

Table of Contents

our ability to sell the iDGs left as a co-product of fermenting isobutanol from corn as animal feedstock;

our ability to establish and maintain strategic partnerships, licensing or other arrangements and the timing and terms of those arrangements; and

the cost of preparing, filing, prosecuting, maintaining, defending and enforcing patent, trademark and other intellectual property claims, including litigation costs and the outcome of such litigation.

Additional funds may not be available when we need them, on terms that are acceptable to us, or at all. In addition, our ability to raise additional funds will be subject to certain limitations in the agreements governing our indebtedness, including the 2020 Notes. If needed funds are not available to us on a timely basis, we may be required to delay, limit, reduce or terminate:

our research and development activities;

our plans to access and/or Retrofit existing ethanol facilities;

our production of isobutanol at Retrofitted plants, including at the Luverne Facility;

any plans to further expand production of isobutanol or other products at the Luverne Facility;

our production of hydrocarbons at our demonstration plant located at the South Hampton facility near Houston, TX, or any other future facilities;

our efforts to prepare, file, prosecute, maintain and enforce patent, trademark and other intellectual property rights and defend against claims by others that we may be violating their intellectual property rights; and/or

our activities in developing storage capacity and negotiating supply agreements that may be necessary for the commercialization of our isobutanol production.

Future issuances of our common stock or instruments convertible or exercisable into our common stock, including in connection with conversions of our 2020 Notes or exercises of warrants, may materially and adversely affect the price of our common stock and cause dilution to our existing stockholders.

In order to fund our business over the past few years, we have raised capital by issuing common stock and warrants in underwritten public offerings because no other reasonable sources of capital were available. These underwritten public offerings of common stock and warrants have materially and adversely affected the prevailing market prices of our common stock and caused significant dilution to our stockholders. We anticipate that for the foreseeable future we will continue to raise capital through these dilutive underwritten public offerings of common stock and warrants.

We may obtain additional funds through public or private debt or equity financings in the near future, subject to certain limitations in the agreements governing our indebtedness, including the 2020 Notes. If we issue additional shares of common stock or instruments convertible into common stock, it may materially and adversely affect the price of our common stock. In addition, the conversion of some or all of the 2020 Notes and/or the exercise of some or all of the warrants may dilute the ownership interests of our stockholders, and any sales in the public market of any of our common stock issuable upon such conversion or exercise could adversely affect prevailing market prices of our common stock. Additionally, under the terms of certain warrants in the event that a warrant is exercised at a time when we do not have an effective registration statement covering the underlying shares of common stock on file with the SEC, such warrant may be net exercised, which will dilute the ownership interests of existing stockholders without any corresponding benefit to the Company of a cash payment for the exercise price of such warrant.

As of September 30, 2017, we had \$16.6 million in outstanding 2020 Notes, which were convertible into 29,174,818 shares of our common stock at the conversion rate in effect on such date. The 29,174,818 shares

Table of Contents

includes 6,651,798 shares of common stock that may be issuable from time to time in the event that the Company elects to pay make-whole payments due upon conversion of the 2020 Notes, if any, in shares of common stock. We may also pay a portion of the interest due on the 2020 Notes in the form of PIK Interest. The anticipated conversion of the outstanding 2020 Notes and any payment of PIK Interest in shares of our common stock could depress the trading price of our common stock. In addition, subject to certain restrictions, we have the option to issue common stock to any converting holder in lieu of making any required make-whole payment in cash. If we elect to issue our common stock for such payment, it will be at the same conversion rate that is applicable to conversions of the principal amount of the 2020 Notes. If we elect to issue additional shares of our common stock for such payments, this may cause significant additional dilution to our existing stockholders.

The terms of the agreements governing our indebtedness, including the indenture governing our 2020 Notes, may restrict our ability to engage in certain transactions.

The terms of the agreements governing our indebtedness, including the indenture governing the 2020 Notes, may prohibit us from engaging in certain actions, including disposing of certain assets, granting or otherwise allowing the imposition of a lien against certain assets, incurring certain kinds of additional indebtedness, acquiring or merging with other entities, or making dividends and other restricted payments unless we receive the prior approval of the requisite lenders or the requisite holders of the 2020 Notes. If we are unable to obtain such approval, we could be prohibited from engaging in transactions which could be beneficial to our business and our stockholders or could be forced to repay such indebtedness in full.

The indenture governing the 2020 Notes may prohibit us from engaging in certain mergers or acquisitions and if a fundamental change of the Company occurs prior to the maturity date of the 2020 Notes, holders of the 2020 Notes will have the right, at their option, to require us to repurchase all or a portion of their 2022 Notes and, in certain circumstances, to pay the holders of the 2020 Notes a make-whole payment equal to the aggregate amount of interest that would have been payable on such 2020 Notes from the repurchase date through the maturity date of such 2020 Notes. With respect to the 2020 Notes, if a fundamental change occurs prior to the maturity date of the 2020 Notes, we will in some cases be required to increase the conversion rate for a holder that elects to convert its 2020 Notes in connection with such fundamental change. In addition, if a fundamental transaction occurs, some holders of warrants will have the right, at their option, to require us to repurchase the unexercised portion of such warrants for an amount in cash equal to the value of the warrants, as determined in accordance with the Black Scholes option pricing model and the terms of the warrants. These and other provisions could prevent or deter a third party from acquiring us, even where the acquisition could be beneficial to you.

The conversion or exercise prices, as applicable, of the 2020 Notes and warrants can fluctuate under certain circumstances which, if triggered, can result in potentially material further dilution to our stockholders.

The conversion price of the 2020 Notes can fluctuate in certain circumstances, including in the event that there is a dividend or distribution paid on shares of our common stock or a subdivision, combination or reclassification of our common stock. In such instances, the conversion price of the 2020 Notes can fluctuate materially lower than the current conversion price of \$0.7359 per share.

The number of shares of common stock for which certain of our warrants, are exercisable may be adjusted in the event that we undertake certain stock dividends, splits, combinations, distributions, and the price at which such shares of common stock may be purchased upon exercise of the warrants may be adjusted in the event that we undertake certain issuances of common stock or convertible securities at prices lower than the then-current exercise price for the warrants. As a result of these provisions, the exercise price of the warrants that we issued in December 2013, August 2014, May 2015, December 2015, March 2016 and February 2017 will be subject to adjustment in connection with

this offering. These provisions could result in substantial dilution to investors in our common stock. For example, we have 6,090,000 Series K Warrants outstanding, whose exercise price will be reduced to the sale price of any sale pursuant to the Sales Agreement at a price lower than the then-current exercise price of the Series K Warrants.

S-14

Table of Contents

We may not have the ability to pay interest on the 2020 Notes or to repurchase or redeem the 2020 Notes.

If a fundamental change (as defined in the indenture governing the 2020 Notes) occurs, holders of the 2020 Notes may require us to repurchase, for cash, all or a portion of their 2020 Notes. In such circumstance we would be required to offer to repurchase the 2020 Notes at 100% of principal plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but not including, the repurchase date. If we elect to redeem the 2020 Notes prior to their maturity, the redemption price of any 2020 Notes redeemed by us will be paid for in cash. Our ability to pay the interest on the 2020 Notes, to repurchase or redeem the 2020 Notes, to refinance our indebtedness and to fund working capital needs and planned capital expenditures depends on our ability to generate cash flow in the future. To some extent, this is subject to general economic, financial, competitive, legislative and regulatory factors and other factors that are beyond our control. We cannot assure you that we will have sufficient cash reserves or that our business will generate cash flow from operations at levels sufficient to permit us to pay the interest on the 2020 Notes, to repurchase or redeem the 2020 Notes or to pay any cash amounts that may become due upon conversion of the 2020 Notes, or that our cash needs will not increase. In addition, any such repurchase or redemption of the 2020 Notes, even if such action would be in our best interests, may result in a default under the agreements governing our indebtedness unless we are able to obtain the applicable lender's consent prior to the taking of such action.

Our failure to repurchase tendered 2020 Notes at a time when the repurchase is required by the indenture governing the 2020 Notes would constitute a default under such notes and would permit holders of such notes to accelerate our obligations under the 2020 Notes. Such default may also lead to a default under the agreements governing any of our current and future indebtedness. If the repayment of the related indebtedness were to be accelerated after any applicable notice or grace periods, we may not have sufficient funds to repay such indebtedness and repurchase the 2020 Notes or make cash payments upon conversions thereof.

If we are unable to generate sufficient cash flow from operations in the future to service our indebtedness and meet our other needs, we may have to refinance all or a portion of our indebtedness, obtain additional funds through public or private debt or equity financings, reduce expenditures or sell assets that we deem necessary to our business. Our ability to take some or all of these actions will be subject to certain limitations in the agreements governing our indebtedness, including the 2020 Notes, and we cannot assure you that any of these measures would be possible or that any additional financing could be obtained on favorable terms, or at all. The inability to obtain additional financing on commercially reasonable terms could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, which could cause the value of your investment to decline. Additionally, if we were to conduct a public or private offering of securities, any new offering would be likely to dilute our stockholders' equity ownership.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering to fund working capital and for other general corporate purposes, which may include the repayment of outstanding indebtedness.

As of the date of this prospectus supplement, we cannot specify with certainty all of the particular uses of the proceeds from this offering. Accordingly, we will retain broad discretion over the use of such proceeds. Pending the use of the net proceeds from this offering, as described above, we intend to invest the net proceeds in demand deposit accounts.

S-16

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF OUR COMMON STOCK

Authorized and Outstanding Capital Stock

Our authorized capital stock consists of 250,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, and 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share, issuable in one or more series designated by our board of directors. As of January 31, 2018, there were 22,600,849 shares of common stock and no shares of preferred stock outstanding.

The material terms and provisions of our common stock and each other class of our securities which may qualify or limit the rights and privileges of our common stock are described under the caption "Description of Capital Stock" in the accompanying prospectus.

S-17

Table of Contents

MATERIAL UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES

The following is a summary of the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of shares of our common stock.

Scope of this Summary

This summary is for general information purposes only and does not purport to be a complete analysis or listing of all potential U.S. federal income tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of shares of our common stock. Except as specifically set forth below, this summary does not discuss applicable tax reporting requirements. In addition, this summary does not take into account the individual facts and circumstances of any particular holder that may affect the U.S. federal income tax consequences to such holder.

Accordingly, this summary is not intended to be, and should not be construed as, legal or tax advice with respect to any particular holder. Each holder should consult its own tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal, state and local, and non-U.S. tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of shares of our common stock.

No legal opinion from U.S. legal counsel or ruling from the Internal Revenue Service (the IRS) has been requested, or will be obtained, regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of shares of our common stock. This summary is not binding on the IRS, and the IRS is not precluded from taking a position that is different from, or contrary to, the positions taken in this summary.

Authorities

This summary is based upon provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), regulations, rulings and judicial decisions as of the date hereof. Those authorities may be changed, perhaps retroactively, or be subject to differing interpretations, so as to result in U.S. federal tax considerations different from those summarized below.

U.S. Holders

As used in this summary, the term U.S. Holder means a beneficial owner of shares of our common stock acquired pursuant to this prospectus supplement that is, for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

an individual who is a citizen or resident of the U.S.;

a corporation (or other entity taxable as a corporation) organized under the laws of the U.S., any state thereof or the District of Columbia;

an estate whose income is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source; or

a trust that (1) is subject to the primary supervision of a court within the U.S. and the control of one or more U.S. persons for all substantial decisions or (2) has a valid election in effect under applicable Treasury Regulations to be treated as a U.S. person.

Non-U.S. Holders

For purposes of this summary, a Non-U.S. holder means a beneficial owner of shares of our common stock acquired pursuant to this prospectus supplement that is neither a U.S. Holder nor a partnership (or an entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes). A Non-U.S. Holder should review the discussion under the heading Non-U.S. Holders below for more information.

Table of Contents **Holders Subject to Special U.S. Federal Income Tax Rules**

This summary deals only with persons or entities who hold shares of our common stock as a capital asset within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code (generally, property held for investment purposes). This summary does not address all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation that may be applicable to holders in light of their particular circumstances or to holders subject to special treatment under U.S. federal income tax law, such as: banks, insurance companies, and other financial institutions; dealers or traders in securities, commodities or foreign currencies; regulated investment companies; U.S. expatriates or former long-term residents of the U.S.; persons holding shares of our common stock as part of a straddle, appreciated financial position, synthetic security, hedge, conversion transaction or other integrated investment; persons holding shares of our common stock as a result of a constructive sale; real estate investment trusts; U.S. Holders that have a functional currency other than the U.S. dollar; holders that acquired shares of our common stock in connection with the exercise of employee stock options or otherwise as consideration for services; or holders that are controlled foreign corporations or passive foreign investment companies. Holders that are subject to special provisions under the Code, including holders described immediately above, should consult their own tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal, state and local, and non-U.S. tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of shares of our common stock.

If an entity classified as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes holds shares of our common stock, the tax treatment of a partner generally will depend on the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. This summary does not address the tax consequences to any such owner or entity. Partners of entities or arrangements that are classified as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes should consult their own tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of shares of our common stock.

Tax Consequences Not Addressed

This summary does not address the U.S. state and local, U.S. federal estate and gift, U.S. federal alternative minimum tax, or non-U.S. tax consequences to holders of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of shares of our common stock. Each holder should consult its own tax advisors regarding the U.S. state and local, U.S. federal estate and gift, U.S. federal alternative minimum tax, and non-U.S. tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of shares of our common stock.

U.S. Holders***Distributions on Shares of Our Common Stock***

We have never declared or paid any cash dividends on our common stock and do not anticipate paying any cash dividends on our common stock in the foreseeable future. If we were to pay cash dividends in the future, such distributions made on shares of our common stock generally would be included in a U.S. Holder's income as ordinary dividend income to the extent of our current or accumulated earnings and profits (determined under U.S. federal income tax principles) as of the end of our taxable year in which the distribution occurred. Dividends received by certain non-corporate U.S. Holders may be eligible for taxation at preferential rates provided certain holding period and other requirements are satisfied. Distributions in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits would be treated as a return of capital to the extent of a U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in the shares and thereafter as capital gain from the sale or exchange of such shares, which would be taxable according to rules discussed under the heading *Sale, Certain Redemptions or Other Taxable Dispositions of Shares of Our Common Stock*, below. Dividends received by a corporate holder may be eligible for a dividends received deduction, subject to applicable limitations.

Sale, Certain Redemptions or Other Taxable Dispositions of Shares of Our Common Stock

Upon the sale, certain qualifying redemptions, or other taxable disposition of shares of our common stock, a U.S. Holder generally will recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference, if any, between (i) the amount of

S-19

Table of Contents

cash and the fair market value of any property received upon such taxable disposition and (ii) the U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in the shares of our common stock sold or otherwise disposed of. Such capital gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss if a U.S. Holder's holding period in the shares of our common stock is more than one year at the time of the taxable disposition. Long-term capital gains recognized by certain non-corporate U.S. Holders (including individuals) may be eligible for taxation at preferential rates. Deductions for capital losses are subject to limitations under the Code.

Additional Tax on Passive Income

Individuals, estates and certain trusts whose income exceeds certain thresholds will be required to pay a 3.8% Medicare surtax on net investment income including, among other things, dividends and net gain from the disposition of shares of stock. U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the effect, if any, of this tax on their ownership and disposition of shares of our common stock.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

Information reporting requirements generally will apply to payments of dividends on shares of our common stock and to the proceeds of a sale of shares of our common stock paid to a U.S. Holder unless the U.S. Holder is an exempt recipient (such as a corporation). Backup withholding will apply to those payments if the U.S. Holder fails to provide its correct taxpayer identification number, or certification of exempt status, or if the U.S. Holder is notified by the IRS that it has failed to report in full payments of interest and dividend income. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules generally will be allowed as a refund or a credit against a U.S. Holder's U.S. federal income tax liability, if any, provided the required information is furnished in a timely manner to the IRS.

Non-U.S. Holders

Distributions on Shares of Our Common Stock

We have never declared or paid any cash dividends on our common stock and do not anticipate paying any cash dividends on our common stock in the foreseeable future. If we were to pay cash dividends in the future on our common stock, such distributions would be subject to U.S. federal income tax in the manner described below.

Cash distributions on shares of our common stock generally would constitute dividends for U.S. federal income tax purposes to the extent paid out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles as of the end of our taxable year in which the distribution occurred. Distributions in excess of current and accumulated earnings and profits would be applied against and reduce a Non-U.S. Holder's tax basis in shares of our common stock, to the extent thereof, and any excess would be treated as capital gain realized on the sale or other disposition of the shares and subject to tax in the manner described under the heading "Sale or Other Taxable Disposition of Shares of Our Common Stock," below.

Any dividends paid to a Non-U.S. Holder with respect to shares of our common stock that constitute dividends under the rules described above generally would be subject to withholding of U.S. federal income tax at a 30% rate or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty. However, dividends that are effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business by a Non-U.S. Holder within the U.S. and, where an income tax treaty applies, are attributable to a U.S. permanent establishment of the Non-U.S. Holder, would not be subject to this withholding tax, but instead would be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis at applicable individual or corporate rates. A Non-U.S. Holder generally must deliver an IRS Form W-8ECI certifying under penalties of perjury that such

dividends are effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the holder in order for effectively connected dividends to be exempt from this withholding tax. Any such effectively connected dividends received by a foreign corporation may be subject to an additional branch profits tax at a 30% rate or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty.

S-20

Table of Contents

A Non-U.S. Holder of shares of our common stock who is entitled to and wishes to claim the benefits of an applicable treaty rate (and avoid backup withholding as discussed below) with respect to dividends received generally must (i) complete an IRS Form W-8BEN or W-8BEN-E (or an acceptable substitute form) and make certain certifications, under penalty of perjury, to establish its status as a non-U.S. person and its entitlement to treaty benefits or (ii) if the stock is held through certain foreign intermediaries, satisfy the relevant certification requirements of applicable U.S. Treasury regulations. Special certification and other requirements apply to certain Non-U.S. Holders that are entities rather than individuals.

The certification requirements described above must be satisfied prior to the payment of dividends and may be required to be updated periodically. A Non-U.S. Holder eligible for a reduced rate of U.S. federal withholding tax pursuant to an income tax treaty may obtain a refund of any excess amounts withheld by timely filing an appropriate claim for refund with the IRS.

Sale or Other Taxable Disposition of Shares of Our Common Stock

In general, a Non-U.S. Holder of shares of our common stock will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax with respect to gain recognized on a sale or other disposition of such shares of our common stock, unless: (i) the gain is effectively connected with a trade or business of the Non-U.S. Holder in the U.S. and, where a tax treaty applies, is attributable to a U.S. permanent establishment of the Non-U.S. Holder (in which case, the special rules described below apply), (ii) in the case of a Non-U.S. Holder who is an individual, such holder is present in the U.S. for 183 or more days in the taxable year of the sale or other disposition and certain other conditions are met, in which case the gain would be subject to a flat 30% tax, or such reduced rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty, which may be offset by U.S. source capital losses, even though the individual is not considered a resident of the U.S., or (iii) subject to certain exceptions, we are or have been a U.S. real property holding corporation, as such term is defined in Section 897(c) of the Code, during the shorter of the five-year period ending on the date of disposition or the holder's holding period of our shares of our common stock.

We believe we currently are not, and do not anticipate becoming, a U.S. real property holding corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Any gain described in (i) above will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis at applicable individual or corporate rates. If the Non-U.S. Holder is a corporation, under certain circumstances, that portion of its earnings and profits that is effectively connected with its U.S. trade or business, subject to certain adjustments, generally would be subject to an additional branch profits tax at a 30% rate or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

We must report annually to the IRS and to each Non-U.S. Holder the amount of dividends paid to such holder on the shares of our common stock and the tax withheld (if any) with respect to such dividends, regardless of whether withholding was required. Copies of the information returns reporting such dividends and any withholding may also be made available to the tax authorities in the country in which the Non-U.S. Holder resides under the provisions of an applicable income tax treaty or information sharing agreement. In addition, dividends paid to a Non-U.S. Holder may be subject to backup withholding unless applicable certification requirements are met.

Payment of the proceeds of a sale of shares of our common stock within the U.S. or conducted through certain U.S. related financial intermediaries is subject to information reporting and, depending upon the circumstances, backup withholding unless the Non-U.S. Holder certifies under penalties of perjury that it is not a U.S. person (and the

payor does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that the holder is a U.S. person) or the holder otherwise establishes an exemption.

S-21

Table of Contents

Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules may be allowed as a refund or a credit against such holder's U.S. federal income tax liability provided the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA)

Legislation commonly referred to as the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act and associated guidance, or FATCA, generally will impose a 30% U.S. federal withholding tax on any withholdable payment (as defined below) paid to (i) a foreign financial institution (as specifically defined in the legislation), whether such foreign financial institution is the beneficial owner or an intermediary, unless such foreign financial institution agrees to verify, report and disclose its U.S. account holders (as specifically defined in the legislation) and meets certain other specified requirements, or (ii) a non-financial foreign entity, whether such non-financial foreign entity is the beneficial owner or an intermediary, unless such entity provides a certification that the beneficial owner of the payment does not have any substantial U.S. owners or provides the name, address and taxpayer identification number of each such substantial U.S. owner and certain other specified requirements are met. In certain cases, the relevant foreign financial institution or non-financial foreign entity may qualify for an exemption from, or be deemed to be in compliance with, these rules. Under final regulations and other current guidance, withholdable payments generally include dividends on shares of our common stock, and will include the gross proceeds of a disposition of shares of our common stock, on or after January 1, 2019. Investors are urged to consult their own tax advisors regarding the possible application of these rules to their investment in shares of our common stock.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We have entered into the Sales Agreement with H.C. Wainwright & Co., LLC as our sales agent, under which we may offer and sell from time to time shares of our common stock having an aggregate offering price of up to \$5,000,000. The sales, if any, of shares of our common stock made under the Sales Agreement may be made in sales deemed to be at-the-market offerings as defined in Rule 415 under the Securities Act, including by sales made directly on or through Nasdaq or another market for our common stock, sales made to or through a market maker other than on an exchange or otherwise, in negotiated transactions at market prices prevailing at the time of sale or at negotiated prices, or as otherwise agreed with the sales agent. Any sale other than at-the-market will be accompanied by a further prospectus supplement.

We will designate the maximum amount of shares of our common stock to be sold through the sales agent on a daily basis or otherwise as we and the sales agent agree and the minimum price per share at which such shares may be sold. Subject to the terms and conditions of the Sales Agreement, the sales agent will use its commercially reasonable efforts to sell on our behalf all of the designated shares. We may instruct the sales agent not to sell any shares if the sales cannot be effected at or above the price designated by us in any such instruction. We or the sales agent may suspend the offering of shares at any time and from time to time by notifying the other party. We cannot predict the number of shares that we may sell hereby or if any shares will be sold.

We will pay the sales agent a commission of 1.0% of the gross sales price per share sold through it as our agent under the Sales Agreement. We have agreed to pay or reimburse certain of the expenses of the sales agent.

The sales agent will provide to us written confirmation following the close of trading on Nasdaq each day in which shares are sold under the Sales Agreement. Each confirmation will include the number of shares sold on that day, the gross sales proceeds, the net proceeds to us (after deducting any expenses payable by us and any transaction fees, transfer taxes or similar taxes or fees imposed by any governmental entity or self-regulatory organization in respect of such sales) and the compensation payable by us to the sales agent. We will report in a prospectus supplement and/or our filings under the Exchange Act, at least quarterly the number of shares sold by or through the sales agent under the Sales Agreement, the net proceeds to us and the aggregate compensation of the sales agent in connection with sales of the shares.

Settlement for sales of shares will occur in return for payment of the net proceeds to us in accordance with the standard settlement cycle provided in Rule 15c6-1(a) under the Exchange Act, unless the parties agree otherwise. There is no arrangement for funds to be received in an escrow, trust or similar arrangement.

Under the terms of the Sales Agreement, we also may sell shares of our common stock to the sales agent, as principal for its own account, at a price per share agreed upon at the time of sale. If we sell shares to the sales agent as principal, we will enter into a separate terms agreement with such sales agent and we will describe the agreement in a separate prospectus supplement or pricing supplement.

If we have reason to believe that shares of our common stock are no longer an actively-traded security as defined under Rule 101(c)(1) of Regulation M under the Exchange Act, we will promptly notify the other party and sales of shares pursuant to the Sales Agreement or any terms agreement will be suspended until in our collective judgment Rule 101(c)(1) or another exemptive provision has been satisfied.

The offering of shares pursuant to the Sales Agreement will terminate upon the earlier of (1) the sale of all shares subject to the Sales Agreement or (2) the termination of the Sales Agreement by us or by the sales agent.

In connection with the sale of shares of our common stock on our behalf, the sales agent may be deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act, and the compensation paid to the sales agent may be deemed to be underwriting commissions or discounts. We have agreed to provide indemnification and contribution to the sales agent against certain liabilities, including civil liabilities under the Securities Act.

We estimate that the total expenses of this offering payable by us, excluding commissions payable to the sales agent under the Sales Agreement, will be approximately \$150,000.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the securities being offered by this prospectus will be passed upon by Perkins Coie LLP, Denver, Colorado. Certain legal matters in connection with the offering will be passed upon for the sales agent by Ellenoff Grossman & Schole LLP, New York, New York.

EXPERTS

The audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2016 and 2015 incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement have been so incorporated by reference in reliance upon the report of Grant Thornton LLP, independent registered public accountants, upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

The consolidated financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2014 (before the retrospective adjustments to the consolidated financial statements and financial statement disclosures relating to the April 20, 2015 reverse stock split) (not separately presented herein) incorporated in this prospectus supplement by reference from the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report (which report expresses an unqualified opinion and includes explanatory paragraphs referring to the Company's going concern uncertainty and development activities and the April 20, 2015 reverse stock split), which is incorporated herein by reference. Those retrospective adjustments relating to the April 20, 2015 reverse stock split were audited by other auditors. Such 2014 consolidated financial statements have been so incorporated in reliance upon the report of Deloitte & Touche LLP given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document we file at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for more information about the operation of the Public Reference Room. The SEC maintains an internet website at <http://www.sec.gov> that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC, including Gevo, Inc. You may also access our reports and proxy statements free of charge at our website, <http://www.gevo.com>. The information contained in, or that can be accessed through, our website is not part of this prospectus supplement. The prospectus included in this filing is part of a registration statement filed by us with the SEC. The full registration statement can be obtained from the SEC, as indicated above, or from us.

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document that we have filed separately with the SEC. We hereby incorporate by reference the following information or documents into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus:

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

Edgar Filing: Gevo, Inc. - Form 424B5

our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarterly periods ended March 31, 2017, June 30, 2017 and September 30, 2017, filed with the SEC on May 9, 2017, August 3, 2017 and November 6, 2017, respectively;

S-24

Table of Contents

our Current Reports on Forms 8-K filed with the SEC on January 6, 2017, January 10, 2017, January 12, 2017, January 18, 2017, January 31, 2017, February 16, 2017, February 22, 2017, April 20, 2017, May 4, 2017, June 12, 2017, June 16, 2017, June 20, 2017, June 22, 2017, November 21, 2017, December 21, 2017, January 3, 2018, January 5, 2018 and January 10, 2018; and

the description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-168792), filed with the SEC on August 12, 2010, including any subsequent amendment or report filed for the purpose of amending such description.

Any information in any of the foregoing documents will automatically be deemed to be modified or superseded to the extent that information in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus or in a later filed document that is incorporated or deemed to be incorporated herein by reference modifies or replaces such information.

We also incorporate by reference any future filings (other than current reports furnished under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of Form 8-K and exhibits filed on such form that are related to such items) made with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, until we sell all of the securities offered by this prospectus supplement. Information in such future filings updates and supplements the information provided in this prospectus supplement. Any statements in any such future filings will automatically be deemed to modify and supersede any information in any document we previously filed with the SEC that is incorporated or deemed to be incorporated herein by reference to the extent that statements in the later filed document modify or replace such earlier statements.

Upon written or oral request, we will provide to you, without charge, a copy of any or all of the documents that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus but not delivered with the prospectus, including exhibits which are specifically incorporated by reference into such documents. Requests should be directed to: Gevo, Inc., Attention: Investor Relations, 345 Inverness Drive South, Building C, Suite 310, Englewood, Colorado 80112, telephone (303) 858-8358.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

\$130,000,000

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Debt Securities

Warrants

Units

15,076,495 Shares of Common Stock

Issuable Upon Exercise of Outstanding Warrants

From time to time, we may offer up to \$130,000,000 of any combination of the securities described in this prospectus, either individually or in units. We may also offer common stock or preferred stock upon conversion of debt securities, common stock upon conversion of preferred stock, or common stock, preferred stock or debt securities upon the exercise of warrants. We will provide the specific terms of these offerings and securities in one or more supplements to this prospectus.

This prospectus also relates to the issuance of 15,076,495 shares of our common stock (the "Warrant Shares") upon exercise of certain of our outstanding Warrants (as defined below under the heading "Description of Outstanding Warrants"). Such Warrants and Warrant Shares were registered under our Registration Statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-187893), as amended on May 13, 2013 and initially declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") on May 15, 2013 (the "Prior Registration Statement").

We may authorize one or more free writing prospectuses to be provided to you in connection with these offerings. Any prospectus supplements and/or related free writing prospectuses may add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should carefully read this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, as well as any documents incorporated by reference, before buying any of the securities being offered.

Our common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol "GEVO". On June 30, 2016, the last reported sale price of our common stock on the NASDAQ Capital Market was \$0.59. The applicable prospectus supplement will contain information, where applicable, as to any other listing, if any, on the NASDAQ Capital Market or any securities market or other exchange of the securities covered by the applicable prospectus supplement.

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should review carefully the risks and uncertainties described under the heading Risk Factors contained in the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, and under similar headings in the other documents that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

This prospectus may not be used to consummate a sale of any securities unless accompanied by the applicable prospectus supplement.

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

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

The date of this prospectus is August 2, 2016.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	1
<u>CONVENTIONS THAT APPLY TO THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	1
<u>GEVO, INC.</u>	3
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	4
<u>CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	5
<u>THE SECURITIES WE MAY OFFER</u>	7
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u>	10
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	10
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u>	11
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES</u>	13
<u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u>	20
<u>DESCRIPTION OF UNITS</u>	23
<u>DESCRIPTION OF OUTSTANDING WARRANTS</u>	25
<u>LEGAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES</u>	30
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	33
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	35
<u>EXPERTS</u>	35
<u>MATERIAL CHANGES</u>	35
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</u>	35

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) utilizing a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may offer shares of our common stock and preferred stock, various series of debt securities and/or warrants to purchase any of such securities, either individually or in units, in one or more offerings, up to a total dollar amount of \$130,000,000. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we offer a type or series of securities under this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain more specific information about the terms of those securities. This prospectus also relates to the issuance of up to 15,076,495 Warrant Shares upon exercise of certain of our outstanding Warrants. The Warrants and the Warrant Shares were registered under the Prior Registration Statement. We may authorize one or more free writing prospectuses to be provided to you that may contain material information relating to these offerings. We may also add or update in the prospectus supplement (and in any related free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you) any of the information contained in this prospectus or in the documents that we have incorporated by reference into this prospectus. We urge you to carefully read this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, together with the information incorporated herein by reference as described under the heading **Where You Can Find Additional Information**, before buying any of the securities being offered. **THIS PROSPECTUS MAY NOT BE USED TO CONSUMMATE A SALE OF SECURITIES UNLESS IT IS ACCOMPANIED BY THE APPLICABLE PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT.**

You should rely only on the information that we have provided or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. No dealer, salesperson or other person is authorized to give any information or to represent anything not contained in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any related free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you. You must not rely on any unauthorized information or representation. This prospectus is an offer to sell only the securities offered hereby, and only under circumstances and in jurisdictions where it is lawful to do so. You should assume that the information in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any related free writing prospectus is accurate only as of the date on the front of the document and that any information we have incorporated by reference is accurate only as of the date of the document incorporated by reference, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any related free writing prospectus, or any sale of a security.

This prospectus contains summaries of certain provisions contained in some of the documents described herein, but reference is made to the actual documents for complete information. All of the summaries are qualified in their entirety by the actual documents. Copies of some of the documents referred to herein have been filed, will be filed or will be incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, and you may obtain copies of those documents as described below under the heading **Where You Can Find Additional Information**.

CONVENTIONS THAT APPLY TO THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus contains estimates and other information concerning our target markets that are based on industry publications, surveys and forecasts, including those generated by SRI Consulting, a division of Access Intelligence, LLC, Chemical Market Associates, Inc., the U.S. Energy Information Association (the EIA), the International Energy Agency (the IEA), the Renewable Fuels Association (the RFA), and Nexant, Inc. (Nexant). Certain target market sizes presented in this prospectus have been calculated by us (as further described below) based on such information. This information involves a number of assumptions and limitations and you are cautioned not to give undue weight to this information. Please read the section of this prospectus entitled **Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking**

Statements. The industry in which we operate is subject to a high degree of uncertainty and risk due to a variety of factors, including those described under the

Table of Contents

heading Risk Factors contained in the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, and in our most recent annual report on Form 10-K and any subsequently filed quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, as well as any amendments thereto reflected in subsequent filings with the SEC. These and other factors could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in these publications, surveys and forecasts.

With respect to calculation of product market volumes:

product market volumes are provided solely to show the magnitude of the potential markets for isobutanol and the products derived from it. They are not intended to be projections of our actual isobutanol production or sales;

product market volume calculations for fuels markets are based on data available for the year 2013 (the most current data available from the IEA);

product market volume calculations for chemicals markets are based on data available for the year 2012 (the most current data available from Nexant); and

volume data with respect to target market sizes is derived from data included in various industry publications, surveys and forecasts generated by the EIA, the IEA and Nexant.

We have converted these market sizes into volumes of isobutanol as follows:

we calculated the size of the market for isobutanol as a gasoline blendstock and oxygenate by multiplying the world gasoline market volume by an estimated 12.5% by volume isobutanol blend ratio;

we calculated the size of the specialty chemicals markets by substituting volumes of isobutanol equivalent to the volume of products currently used to serve these markets;

we calculated the size of the petrochemicals and hydrocarbon fuels markets by calculating the amount of isobutanol that, if converted into the target products at theoretical yield, would be needed to fully serve these markets (in substitution for the volume of products currently used to serve these markets); and

for consistency in measurement, where necessary we converted all market sizes into gallons. Conversion into gallons for the fuels markets is based upon fuel densities identified by Air BP Ltd. and the American Petroleum Institute.

Table of Contents

GEVO, INC.

Gevo, Inc. is a renewable chemicals and next generation biofuels company. We have developed proprietary technology that uses a combination of synthetic biology, metabolic engineering, chemistry and chemical engineering to focus primarily on the production of isobutanol, as well as related products from renewable feedstocks. Isobutanol is a four-carbon alcohol that can be sold directly for use as a specialty chemical in the production of solvents, paints and coatings or as a value-added gasoline blendstock. Isobutanol can also be converted into butenes using dehydration chemistry deployed in the refining and petrochemicals industries today. The convertibility of isobutanol into butenes is important because butenes are primary hydrocarbon building blocks used in the production of hydrocarbon fuels, lubricants, polyester, rubber, plastics, fibers and other polymers. We believe that the products derived from isobutanol have potential applications in substantially all of the global hydrocarbon fuels markets and in approximately 40% of the global petrochemicals markets.

In order to produce and sell isobutanol made from renewable sources, we have developed the Gevo Integrated Fermentation Technology® (GIFT®), an integrated technology platform for the efficient production and separation of isobutanol. GIFT® consists of two components, proprietary biocatalysts which convert sugars derived from multiple renewable feedstocks into isobutanol through fermentation, and a proprietary separation unit which is designed to continuously separate isobutanol from water during the fermentation process. We developed our technology platform to be compatible with the existing approximately 25 billion gallons per year of global operating ethanol production capacity, as estimated by the RFA.

GIFT® is designed to permit (i) the retrofit of existing ethanol capacity to produce isobutanol, ethanol or both products simultaneously or (ii) the addition of renewable isobutanol or ethanol production capabilities to a facility's existing ethanol production by adding additional fermentation capacity side-by-side with the facility's existing ethanol fermentation capacity (collectively referred to as Retrofit). Having the flexibility to switch between the production of isobutanol and ethanol, or produce both products simultaneously, should allow us to optimize asset utilization and cash flows at a facility by taking advantage of fluctuations in market conditions. GIFT® is also designed to allow relatively low capital expenditure Retrofits of existing ethanol facilities, enabling a relatively rapid route to isobutanol production from the fermentation of renewable feedstocks. We believe that our production route will be cost-efficient, will enable relatively rapid deployment of our technology platform and allow our isobutanol and related renewable products to be economically competitive with many of the petroleum-based products used in the chemicals and fuels markets today.

We were incorporated in Delaware in June 2005 under the name Methanotech, Inc. and filed an amendment to our certificate of incorporation changing our name to Gevo, Inc. on March 29, 2006. On April 20, 2015, the Company effected a reverse split of its common stock at a ratio of one-for-fifteen. Unless otherwise indicated, all share amounts, per share data, share prices, exercise prices and conversion rates set forth in this prospectus have, where applicable, been adjusted retroactively to reflect this reverse stock split.

Our principal executive offices are located at 345 Inverness Drive South, Building C, Suite 310, Englewood, CO 80112, and our telephone number is (303) 858-8358. We maintain an Internet website at www.gevo.com. Information contained in or accessible through our website does not constitute part of this prospectus.

Unless otherwise mentioned or unless the context requires otherwise, all references in this prospectus to we, us, our, the Company and Gevo refer to Gevo, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and its wholly owned or indirect subsidiaries, and their predecessors.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully review the risks and uncertainties described under the heading "Risk Factors" contained in the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, and under similar headings in the other documents, including our most recent annual report on Form 10-K, and any subsequent quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K incorporated herein by reference or filed by us after the date of this prospectus, that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus. The occurrence of any of these risks might cause you to lose all or part of your investment in the offered securities. Additional risks not presently known to us or that we currently believe are immaterial may also significantly impair our business operations and financial condition.

Table of Contents

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act) and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act). These statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other important factors that may cause our actual results, levels of activity, performance or achievements to differ materially from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements.

Forward-looking statements may include, but are not limited to, statements relating to the achievement of advances in our technology platform, the success of our Retrofit production model, the availability of suitable and cost-competitive feedstocks, our ability to gain market acceptance for our products, the expected cost-competitiveness and relative performance attributes of our isobutanol and the products derived from it, additional competition, changes in economic conditions, the future price and volatility of petroleum and products derived from petroleum and statements regarding our intended uses of the proceeds of the securities offered hereby. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terminology such as may, will, should, expect, plan, anticipate, estimate, predict, potential or continue, the negative of such terms or other comparable terminology.

Forward-looking statements reflect our current views about future events, are based on assumptions, and are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties. Many important factors could cause actual results, performance or achievements to differ materially from the results, performance or achievements expressed in or implied by our forward-looking statements, including the factors listed below. Many of the factors that will determine future results, performance or achievements are beyond our ability to control or predict. The following are important factors, among others, that could cause actual results, performance or achievements to differ materially from the results, performance or achievements reflected in our forward-looking statements:

our ability to successfully commercialize isobutanol and the products derived from it;

our ability to produce commercial quantities of isobutanol in a timely and economic manner;

unexpected delays, operational difficulties, cost-overruns or failures in the Retrofit process;

our ability to successfully identify and acquire access to additional facilities suitable for efficient Retrofitting;

our ability to market our isobutanol to potential customers;

fluctuations in the market price of petroleum;

fluctuations in the market price of corn and other feedstocks;

our ability to obtain regulatory approval for the use of our isobutanol in our target markets;

our ability to adequately protect our intellectual property, or the loss of some of our intellectual property rights through costly litigation or administrative proceedings;

our ability to transition our preliminary commitments into definitive supply and distribution agreements or to negotiate sufficient long-term supply agreements for our production of isobutanol; and

general economic conditions and inflation, interest rate movements and access to capital.

The forward-looking statements contained herein reflect our views and assumptions only as of the date such forward-looking statements are made. You should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements. Except as required by law, we assume no responsibility for updating any forward-looking statements nor do we intend to do so. Our actual results, performance or achievements could differ materially from the results expressed in, or implied by, these forward-looking statements. The risks included in this section are not exhaustive. Additional factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those described in the

Table of Contents

forward-looking statements are set forth in under the heading "Risk Factors" contained in the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, and in our most recent annual report on Form 10-K and any subsequently filed quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, as well as any amendments thereto reflected in subsequent filings with the SEC. You should carefully read both this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, together with the information incorporated herein by reference as described under the heading "Where You Can Find Additional Information," completely and with the understanding that our actual future results may be materially different from what we expect.

Table of Contents

THE SECURITIES WE MAY OFFER

Unallocated Securities

With respect to the unallocated securities to be offered under this prospectus, we may offer shares of our common stock and preferred stock, various series of debt securities and/or warrants to purchase any of such securities, either individually or in units, with a total value of up to \$130,000,000 from time to time under this prospectus at prices and on terms to be determined by market conditions at the time of any offering. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may so offer. Each time we offer a type or series of securities under this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will describe the specific amounts, prices and other important terms of the securities, including, to the extent applicable:

designation or classification;

aggregate principal amount or aggregate offering price;

maturity, if applicable;

original issue discount, if any;

rates and times of payment of interest or dividends, if any;

redemption, conversion, exercise, exchange or sinking fund terms, if any;

ranking;

restrictive covenants, if any;

voting or other rights, if any;

conversion prices, if any; and

important U.S. federal income tax considerations.

The prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you may also add to or update the information contained in this prospectus or in documents we have incorporated by reference. However, no prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus will offer a security that is not registered and described

in this prospectus at the time of the effectiveness of the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

We may sell such unallocated securities directly to investors or to or through agents, underwriters or dealers. We, and our agents or underwriters, reserve the right to accept or reject all or part of any proposed purchase of securities. If we do offer securities to or through agents or underwriters, we will include in the applicable prospectus supplement:

the names of those agents or underwriters;

applicable fees, discounts and commissions to be paid to them;

details regarding over-allotment options, if any; and

the net proceeds to us.

Common Stock. We may issue shares of our common stock from time to time. The holders of common stock are entitled to one vote for each share held of record on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders and do not have cumulative voting rights. Subject to preferences that may be applicable to any outstanding shares of preferred stock, the holders of common stock are entitled to receive ratably only those dividends as may be declared by our board of directors out of legally available funds. Upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, holders of our common stock are entitled to share ratably in all assets remaining after payment of liabilities and the liquidation preferences of any outstanding shares of preferred stock.

Table of Contents

Preferred Stock. We may issue shares of our preferred stock from time to time, in one or more series. Under our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, our board of directors has the authority, without further action by stockholders, to designate up to 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock in one or more series and to fix the rights, preferences, privileges, qualifications and restrictions granted to or imposed upon the preferred stock, including dividend rights, conversion rights, voting rights, rights and terms of redemption, liquidation preferences and sinking fund terms, any or all of which may be greater than the rights of our common stock.

If we sell any series of preferred stock under this prospectus, we will fix the designations, powers, preferences and rights of such series of preferred stock, as well as the qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereon, in the certificate of designation relating to that series. We will file as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or will incorporate by reference from reports that we file with the SEC, the form of any certificate of designation that describes the terms of the series of preferred stock we are offering before the issuance of the related series of preferred stock. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplement (and any free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you) related to the series of preferred stock being offered, as well as the complete certificate of designation that contains the terms of the applicable series of preferred stock.

Debt Securities. We may issue debt securities from time to time, in one or more series, as either senior secured, senior unsecured or subordinated debt or as senior secured, senior unsecured or subordinated convertible debt. The subordinated debt securities will be subordinate and junior in right of payment, to the extent and in the manner described in the instrument governing the debt, to all of our senior indebtedness. Convertible debt securities will be convertible into or exchangeable for our common stock or our other securities. Conversion may be mandatory or at your option and would be at prescribed conversion rates.

The debt securities will be issued under one or more indentures, which are contracts between us and a national banking association or other eligible party, as trustee. In this prospectus, we have summarized certain general features of the debt securities. We urge you, however, to read the applicable prospectus supplement (and any free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you) related to the series of debt securities being offered, as well as the complete indentures that contain the terms of the debt securities. Forms of indentures have been filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, and supplemental indentures and forms of debt securities containing the terms of the debt securities being offered will be filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part or will be incorporated by reference from reports that we file with the SEC.

Warrants. We may issue warrants for the purchase of common stock, preferred stock and/or debt securities in one or more series. We may issue warrants independently or together with common stock, preferred stock and/or debt securities, and the warrants may be attached to or separate from these securities. In this prospectus, we have summarized certain general features of the warrants. We urge you, however, to read the applicable prospectus supplement (and any free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you) related to the particular series of warrants being offered, as well as the complete warrant agreements and warrant certificates that contain the terms of the warrants. We will file as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or will incorporate by reference from reports that we file with the SEC, forms of the warrant agreements and forms of warrant certificates containing the terms of the warrants being offered.

We will evidence each series of warrants by warrant certificates that we will issue. Warrants may be issued under an applicable warrant agreement that we enter into with a warrant agent. We will indicate the name and address of the warrant agent, if applicable, in the prospectus supplement relating to the particular series of warrants being offered.

Units. We may issue, in one or more series, units consisting of common stock, preferred stock, debt securities and/or warrants for the purchase of common stock, preferred stock and/or debt securities in any combination. In this

prospectus, we have summarized certain general features of the units. We urge you,

Table of Contents

however, to read the applicable prospectus supplement (and any free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you) related to the series of units being offered, as well as the complete unit agreement, if any, that contains the terms of the units. We will file as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or will incorporate by reference from reports that we file with the SEC, the form of unit agreement, if any, and any supplemental agreements that describe the terms of the series of units we are offering before the issuance of the related series of units.

We may evidence each series of units by unit certificates. Units may also be issued under a unit agreement that we enter into with a unit agent. We will indicate the name and address of the unit agent, if applicable, in the prospectus supplement relating to the particular series of units being offered.

Warrant Shares

This prospectus also relates to the issuance of the Warrant Shares, which were previously registered under the Prior Registration Statement. The material terms of the Warrants are summarized herein, which summaries are qualified in their entirety by reference to the forms of warrants and warrant agreements incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. To the extent that the terms of the offering and issuance of the Warrant Shares materially differs from those terms disclosed in this prospectus, we may provide you with a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of such offering.

THIS PROSPECTUS MAY NOT BE USED TO CONSUMMATE A SALE OF SECURITIES UNLESS IT IS ACCOMPANIED BY THE APPLICABLE PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT.

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

The following summary is qualified by the more detailed information appearing in the computation table found in Exhibit 12.1 to the registration statement of which this prospectus is part and the historical financial statements, including the notes to those financial statements, incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

Our earnings are inadequate to cover fixed charges. The following table sets forth the dollar amount of the coverage deficiency for all periods (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended			Year Ended		
	3/31/2016	12/31/2015	12/31/2014	12/31/2013	12/31/2012	12/31/2011
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges						
Deficiency of Earnings Available to Cover Fixed Charges	\$ (3,605)	\$ (36,194)	\$ (41,145)	\$ (67,006)	\$ (62,044)	\$ (48,511)

USE OF PROCEEDS

Except as described in any prospectus supplement or in any related free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you, we currently intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities offered hereby to improve the production of isobutanol and related products at our existing facility, acquire access to additional ethanol facilities through direct acquisition, tolling arrangements or joint ventures and to Retrofit those facilities to produce isobutanol and related products. A portion of the net proceeds from this offering may also be used for general corporate purposes, including, among other things, working capital requirements and potential repayment of indebtedness that may be outstanding at the time of any offering under this prospectus. Pending these uses, we expect to invest the net proceeds in demand deposit accounts or short-term, investment-grade securities.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

Authorized and Outstanding Capital Stock

Our authorized capital stock consists of 250,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, and 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share, issuable in one or more series designated by our board of directors. As of June 30, 2016, there were 89,234,771 shares of common stock and no shares of preferred stock outstanding.

Common Stock

The holders of our common stock have one vote per share. Holders of common stock are not entitled to vote cumulatively for the election of directors. Generally, all matters to be voted on by stockholders must be approved by a majority, or, in the case of election of directors, by a plurality, of the votes cast at a meeting at which a quorum is present, voting together as a single class, subject to any voting rights granted to holders of any then outstanding preferred stock. Subject to preferences that may be applicable to any then outstanding preferred stock, holders of our common stock are entitled to participate equally in dividends when and as dividends may be declared by our board of directors out of funds legally available for the payment of dividends. In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the prior rights of our creditors and the liquidation preference of any preferred stock then outstanding must first be satisfied. The holders of common stock will be entitled to share in the remaining assets on a pro rata basis. No shares of common stock are subject to redemption or have redemptive rights to purchase additional shares of common stock.

Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol **GEVO** .

Preferred Stock

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that we may issue shares of preferred stock from time to time in one or more series. Our board of directors is authorized to fix the voting rights, if any, designations, powers, preferences, qualifications, limitations and restrictions thereof, applicable to the shares of each series of preferred stock. The board of directors may, without stockholder approval, issue preferred stock with voting and other rights that could adversely affect the voting power and other rights of the holders of our common stock, including the likelihood that such holders will receive dividend payments and payments upon liquidation, and could have anti-takeover effects, including preferred stock or rights to acquire preferred stock in connection with implementing a stockholder rights plan. The ability of the board of directors to issue preferred stock without stockholder approval could have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change of control or the removal of our existing management. There are currently no shares of preferred stock outstanding.

Anti-Takeover Provisions

The Delaware General Corporation Law (**DGCL**), our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, and our amended and restated bylaws contain provisions that could discourage or make more difficult a change in control of Gevo, including an acquisition of Gevo by means of a tender offer, a proxy contest and removal of our incumbent officers and directors, without the support of our board of directors. A summary of these provisions follows.

Statutory Business Combination Provision

We are subject to Section 203 of the DGCL, which, subject to certain exceptions, prohibits a Delaware corporation from engaging in any business combination with an interested stockholder for a period of three years following the time that such stockholder became an interested stockholder, unless:

the board of directors of the corporation approves either the business combination or the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder, prior to the time the interested stockholder attained that status;

Table of Contents

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

at or subsequent to such time, the business combination is approved by the board of directors and authorized at an annual or special meeting of stockholders, and not by written consent, by the affirmative vote of at least 66-2/3% of the outstanding voting stock that is not owned by the interested stockholder.

With certain exceptions, an interested stockholder is a person or group who or which owns 15% or more of the corporation's outstanding voting stock (including any rights to acquire stock pursuant to an option, warrant, agreement, arrangement or understanding, or upon the exercise of conversion or exchange rights, and stock with respect to which the person has voting rights only), or is an affiliate or associate of the corporation and was the owner of 15% or more of such voting stock at any time within the previous three years.

In general, Section 203 defines a business combination to include:

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

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

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

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

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

A Delaware corporation may opt out of this provision with an express provision in its original certificate of incorporation or an express provision in its amended and restated certificate of incorporation or bylaws resulting from a stockholders' amendment approved by at least a majority of the outstanding voting shares. However, Gevo has not opted out of this provision. Section 203 could prohibit or delay mergers or other takeover or change-in-control attempts and, accordingly, may discourage attempts to acquire Gevo.

Election and Removal of Directors

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides for our board of directors to be divided into three classes, with staggered three-year terms. Only one class of directors is elected at each annual meeting of our

stockholders, with the other classes continuing for the remainder of their respective three-year terms. Because our stockholders do not have cumulative voting rights, our stockholders holding a majority of the shares of common stock outstanding are able to elect all of our directors. Directors may be removed only with cause by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least a majority of the outstanding shares entitled to vote on such removal.

No Stockholder Action by Written Consent

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and our amended and restated bylaws provide that any action required or permitted to be taken by the holders of common stock at an annual or special meeting of stockholders must be effected at a duly called meeting and may not be taken or effected by written consent of the stockholders.

Table of Contents

Stockholder Meetings

Under our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and our amended and restated bylaws, only the board of directors, acting pursuant to a resolution adopted by a majority of the directors then in office, may call a special meeting of the stockholders, and any business conducted at any special meeting will be limited to the purpose or purposes specified in the notice for such special meeting.

Requirements for Advance Notification of Stockholder Nominations and Proposals

In order for our stockholders to bring nominations or business before an annual meeting properly, they must comply with certain notice requirements as provided by our amended and restated bylaws. Typically, in order for such notices to be timely, they must be provided to us not earlier than the close of business on the 120th day prior to the one-year anniversary of the preceding year's annual meeting and not later than the close of business on the 90th day prior to the one-year anniversary of the preceding year's annual meeting. For such notices to be timely in the event the annual meeting is advanced more than 30 days prior to or delayed by more than 70 days after the one-year anniversary of the preceding year's annual meeting, notice must be provided to us not earlier than the close of business on the 120th day prior to such annual meeting and not later than the close of business on the later of the 90th day prior to such annual meeting or, if later, the 10th day following the day on which public announcement of the date of such meeting is first made.

Amendment of Charter Provisions

The affirmative vote of the holders of at least 66-2/3% of the voting power of all of the then-outstanding shares of our voting stock, voting together as a single class, is required to, among other things, alter, amend or repeal certain provisions of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, including those related to the classification of our board of directors, the amendment of our bylaws and certificate of incorporation, restrictions against stockholder actions by written consent, the designated parties entitled to call a special meeting of the stockholders and the indemnification of officers and directors.

Our amended and restated bylaws may only be amended (or new bylaws adopted) by the board of directors or the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 66-2/3% of the voting power of all of the then-outstanding shares of our voting stock.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is American Stock Transfer & Trust Company. Its address is 6201 15th Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11219 and its telephone number is (800) 937-5449. The transfer agent for any series of preferred stock that we may offer under this prospectus will be named and described in the prospectus supplement for that series.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

We may issue debt securities, in one or more series, as either senior or subordinated debt or as senior or subordinated convertible debt. While the terms we have summarized below will apply generally to any debt securities that we may offer under this prospectus, we will describe the particular terms of any debt securities that we may offer in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms of any debt securities offered under a prospectus supplement may differ from the terms described below. Unless the context requires otherwise, whenever we refer to the indentures, we also are referring to any supplemental indentures that specify the terms of a particular series of debt

securities.

We will issue the senior debt securities under the senior indenture that we will enter into with the trustee named in the senior indenture. We will issue the subordinated debt securities under the subordinated indenture

Table of Contents

that we will enter into with the trustee named in the subordinated indenture. The indentures will be qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. We use the term *debenture trustee* to refer to either the trustee under the senior indenture or the trustee under the subordinated indenture, as applicable. We have filed forms of indentures as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, and supplemental indentures and forms of debt securities containing the terms of the debt securities being offered will be filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part or will be incorporated by reference from reports that we file with the SEC.

The following summaries of material provisions of the senior debt securities, the subordinated debt securities and the indentures are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, all of the provisions of the indenture applicable to a particular series of debt securities. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplements and any related free writing prospectuses related to the debt securities that we may offer under this prospectus, as well as the complete indentures that contain the terms of the debt securities. Except as we may otherwise indicate, the terms of the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture are identical.

General

We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the terms of the series of debt securities being offered, including:

the title;

the principal amount being offered, and if a series, the total amount authorized and the total amount outstanding;

any limit on the amount that may be issued;

whether or not we will issue the series of debt securities in global form, the terms and who the depository will be;

the maturity date;

whether and under what circumstances, if any, we will pay additional amounts on any debt securities held by a person who is not a U.S. person for tax purposes, and whether we can redeem the debt securities if we have to pay such additional amounts;

the annual interest rate, which may be fixed or variable, or the method for determining the rate and the date interest will begin to accrue, the dates interest will be payable and the regular record dates for interest payment dates or the method for determining such dates;

whether or not the debt securities will be secured or unsecured, and the terms of any secured debt;

the terms of the subordination of any series of subordinated debt;

the place where payments will be payable;

restrictions on transfer, sale or other assignment, if any;

our right, if any, to defer payment of interest and the maximum length of any such deferral period;

the date, if any, after which, and the price at which, we may, at our option, redeem the series of debt securities pursuant to any optional or provisional redemption provisions and the terms of those redemption provisions;

the date, if any, on which, and the price at which we are obligated, pursuant to any mandatory sinking fund or analogous fund provisions or otherwise, to redeem, or at the holder's option to purchase, the series of debt securities and the currency or currency unit in which the debt securities are payable;

Table of Contents

whether the indenture will restrict our ability and/or the ability of our subsidiaries to:

incur additional indebtedness;

issue additional securities;

create liens;

pay dividends and make distributions in respect of our capital stock and/or the capital stock of our subsidiaries;

redeem capital stock;

make investments or other restricted payments;

sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of assets;

enter into sale-leaseback transactions;

engage in transactions with stockholders and affiliates;

issue or sell stock of our subsidiaries; or

effect a consolidation or merger;

whether the indenture will require us to maintain any interest coverage, fixed charge, cash flow-based, asset-based or other financial ratios;

information describing any book-entry features;

provisions for a sinking fund purchase or other analogous fund, if any;

the applicability of the provisions in the indenture on discharge;

whether the debt securities are to be offered at a price such that they will be deemed to be offered at an original issue discount as defined in paragraph (a) of Section 1273 of the Internal Revenue Code;

the denominations in which we will issue the series of debt securities, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof;

the currency of payment of debt securities if other than U.S. dollars and the manner of determining the equivalent amount in U.S. dollars;

any other specific terms, preferences, rights or limitations of, or restrictions on, the debt securities, including any additional events of default or covenants provided with respect to the debt securities, and any terms that may be required by us or advisable under applicable laws or regulations; and

any other terms which shall not be inconsistent with the indentures.

The notes may be issued as original issue discount securities. An original issue discount security is a note, including any zero-coupon note, which:

is issued at a price lower than the amount payable upon its stated maturity; and

provides that upon redemption or acceleration of the maturity, an amount less than the amount payable upon the stated maturity, shall become due and payable.

U.S. federal income tax consequences applicable to notes sold at an original issue discount will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. In addition, U.S. federal income tax or other consequences applicable to any notes which are denominated in a currency or currency unit other than U.S. dollars may be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Under the indentures, we will have the ability, in addition to the ability to issue notes with terms different from those of notes previously issued, without the consent of the holders, to reopen a previous issue of a series of

Table of Contents

notes and issue additional notes of that series, unless the reopening was restricted when the series was created, in an aggregate principal amount determined by us.

Conversion or Exchange Rights

We will set forth in the prospectus supplement the terms on which a series of debt securities may be convertible into or exchangeable for our common stock or our other securities. We will include provisions as to whether conversion or exchange is mandatory, at the option of the holder or at our option. We may include provisions pursuant to which the number of shares of our common stock or our other securities that the holders of the series of debt securities receive would be subject to adjustment.

Consolidation, Merger or Sale

Unless we provide otherwise in the prospectus supplement applicable to a particular series of debt securities, the indentures will not contain any covenant that restricts our ability to merge or consolidate, or sell, convey, transfer or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets. However, any successor to or acquirer of such assets must assume all of our obligations under the indentures or the debt securities, as appropriate. If the debt securities are convertible into or exchangeable for our other securities or securities of other entities, the person with whom we consolidate or merge or to whom we sell all of our property must make provisions for the conversion of the debt securities into securities that the holders of the debt securities would have received if they had converted the debt securities before the consolidation, merger or sale.

Events of Default Under the Indentures

Unless we provide otherwise in the prospectus supplement applicable to a particular series of debt securities, the following are events of default under the indentures with respect to any series of debt securities that we may issue:

if we fail to pay interest when due and payable and our failure continues for 90 days and the time for payment has not been extended or deferred;

if we fail to pay the principal, premium or sinking fund payment, if any, when due and payable and the time for payment has not been extended or delayed;

if we fail to observe or perform any other covenant contained in the debt securities or the indentures, other than a covenant specifically relating to another series of debt securities, and our failure continues for 90 days after we receive notice from the debenture trustee or holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the applicable series;

if specified events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization occur; and

any other event of default described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

If an event of default with respect to debt securities of any series occurs and is continuing, other than an event of default specified in the second to last bullet point above, the debenture trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series, by notice to us in writing, and to the debenture trustee if notice is given by such holders, may declare the unpaid principal of, premium, if any, and accrued interest, if any, due and payable immediately. If an event of default results from the occurrence of a specified event of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization with respect to us, the principal amount of and accrued interest, if any, of each issue of debt securities then outstanding shall be due and payable without any notice or other action on the part of the debenture trustee or any holder.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of an affected series may waive any default or event of default with respect to the series and its consequences, except defaults or events of default regarding payment of principal, premium, if any, or interest, unless we have cured the default or event of default in accordance with the indenture. Any such waiver shall cure the default or event of default.

Table of Contents

Subject to the terms of the applicable indenture, if an event of default under an indenture shall occur and be continuing, the debenture trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under such indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders of the applicable series of debt securities, unless such holders have offered the debenture trustee reasonable indemnity. The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the debenture trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the debenture trustee, with respect to the debt securities of that series, provided that:

the direction so given by the holders is not in conflict with any law or the applicable indenture; and

subject to its duties under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, the debenture trustee need not take any action that might involve it in personal liability or might be unduly prejudicial to the holders not involved in the proceeding.

A holder of the debt securities of any series will have the right to institute a proceeding under an indenture or to appoint a receiver or trustee, or to seek other remedies only if:

the holder has given written notice to the debenture trustee of a continuing event of default with respect to that series;

the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series have made written request, and such holders have offered reasonable indemnity to the debenture trustee to institute the proceeding as trustee; and

the debenture trustee does not institute the proceeding, and does not receive from the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series other conflicting directions within 60 days after the notice, request and offer.

These limitations do not apply to a suit instituted by a holder of debt securities if we default in the payment of the principal, premium, if any, or accrued interest on, the debt securities.

We will periodically file statements with the debenture trustee regarding our compliance with specified covenants in the indentures.

Modification of Indenture; Waiver

We and the debenture trustee may change an indenture without the consent of any holders with respect to specific matters:

to fix any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency in the indenture;

Edgar Filing: Gevo, Inc. - Form 424B5

to comply with the provisions described above under the heading Description of Debt Securities Consolidation, Merger or Sale;

to comply with any requirements of the SEC in connection with the qualification of any indenture under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939;

to add to, delete from or revise the conditions, limitations, and restrictions on the authorized amount, terms, or purposes of issue, authentication and delivery of debt securities, as set forth in such indenture;

to provide for the issuance of and establish the form and terms and conditions of the debt securities of any series as provided under the heading Description of Debt Securities General, to establish the form of any certifications required to be furnished pursuant to the terms of an indenture or any series of debt securities, or to add to the rights of the holders of any series of debt securities;

to evidence and provide for the acceptance of appointment hereunder by a successor trustee;

Table of Contents

to provide for uncertificated debt securities in addition to or in place of certificated debt securities and to make all appropriate changes for such purpose;

to add to our covenants such new covenants, restrictions, conditions or provisions for the protection of the holders, and to make the occurrence, or the occurrence and the continuance, of a default in any such additional covenants, restrictions, conditions or provisions an event of default; or

to change anything that does not materially adversely affect the interests of any holder of debt securities of any series; provided that any amendment made solely to conform the provisions of the indenture to the corresponding description of the debt securities contained in the applicable prospectus or prospectus supplement shall be deemed not to adversely affect the interests of the holders of such debt securities.

In addition, under the indentures, the rights of holders of a series of debt securities may be changed by us and the debenture trustee with the written consent of the holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series that is affected. However, unless we provide otherwise in the prospectus supplement applicable to a particular series of debt securities, we and the debenture trustee may make the following changes only with the consent of each holder of any outstanding debt securities affected:

extending the fixed maturity of the series of debt securities;

reducing the principal amount, reducing the rate of or extending the time of payment of interest, or reducing any premium payable upon the redemption of any debt securities;

reducing the percentage of debt securities, the holders of which are required to consent to any amendment, supplement, modification or waiver of the applicable indenture or notes or for waiver of compliance with certain provisions of the applicable indenture or for waiver of certain defaults;.

changing any of our obligations to pay additional amounts;

reducing the amount of principal of an original issue discount security or any other note payable upon acceleration of the maturity thereof;

changing the currency in which any note or any premium or interest is payable;

impairing the right to enforce any payment on or with respect to any note;

adversely changing the right to convert or exchange, including decreasing the conversion rate or increasing the conversion price of, such note, if applicable;

in the case of the subordinated indenture, modifying the subordination provisions in a manner adverse to the holders of the subordinated notes;

if the notes are secured, changing the terms and conditions pursuant to which the notes are secured in a manner adverse to the holders of the secured notes;

reducing the requirements contained in the applicable indenture for quorum or voting;

changing any of our obligations to maintain an office or agency in the places and for the purposes required by the indentures; or

modifying any of the above provisions set forth in this paragraph.

Discharge

Each indenture provides that we can elect to be discharged from our obligations with respect to one or more series of debt securities, except for specified obligations, including obligations to:

register the transfer or exchange of debt securities of the series;

replace stolen, lost or mutilated debt securities of the series;

Table of Contents

maintain paying agencies;

hold monies for payment in trust;

recover excess money held by the debenture trustee;

compensate and indemnify the debenture trustee; and

appoint any successor trustee.

In order to exercise our rights to be discharged, we must deposit with the debenture trustee money or government obligations sufficient to pay all the principal of, the premium, if any, and interest on, the debt securities of the series on the dates payments are due.

Form, Exchange and Transfer

We will issue the debt securities of each series only in fully registered form without coupons and, unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, in denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof. The indentures provide that we may issue debt securities of a series in temporary or permanent global form and as book-entry securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company (DTC) or another depository named by us and identified in a prospectus supplement with respect to that series. See the section entitled Legal Ownership of Securities for a further description of the terms relating to any book-entry securities.

At the option of the holder, subject to the terms of the indentures and the limitations applicable to global securities described in the applicable prospectus supplement, the holder of the debt securities of any series can exchange the debt securities for other debt securities of the same series, in any authorized denomination and of like tenor and aggregate principal amount.

Subject to the terms of the indentures and the limitations applicable to global securities set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, holders of the debt securities may present the debt securities for exchange or for registration of transfer, duly endorsed or with the form of transfer endorsed thereon duly executed if so required by us or the security registrar, at the office of the security registrar or at the office of any transfer agent designated by us for this purpose. Unless otherwise provided in the debt securities that the holder presents for transfer or exchange, we will impose no service charge for any registration of transfer or exchange, but we may require payment of any taxes or other governmental charges.

We will name in the applicable prospectus supplement the security registrar, and any transfer agent in addition to the security registrar, that we initially designate for any debt securities. We may at any time designate additional transfer agents or rescind the designation of any transfer agent or approve a change in the office through which any transfer agent acts, except that we will be required to maintain a transfer agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of each series.

If we elect to redeem the debt securities of any series, we will not be required to:

issue, register the transfer of, or exchange any debt securities of that series during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of mailing of a notice of redemption of any debt securities that may be selected for redemption and ending at the close of business on the day of the mailing; or

register the transfer of or exchange any debt securities so selected for redemption, in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion of any debt securities we are redeeming in part.

Table of Contents

Information Concerning the Debenture Trustee

The debenture trustee, other than during the occurrence and continuance of an event of default under an indenture, undertakes to perform only those duties as are specifically set forth in the applicable indenture. Upon an event of default under an indenture, the debenture trustee must use the same degree of care as a prudent person would exercise or use in the conduct of his or her own affairs. Subject to this provision, the debenture trustee is under no obligation to exercise any of the powers given to it by the indentures at the request of any holder of debt securities unless it is offered reasonable security and indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities that it might incur.

Payment and Paying Agents

Unless we otherwise indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will make payment of the interest on any debt securities on any interest payment date to the person in whose name the debt securities, or one or more predecessor securities, are registered at the close of business on the regular record date for the interest.

We will pay principal of, and any premium and interest on, the debt securities of a particular series at the office of the paying agents designated by us, except that unless we otherwise indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will make interest payments by check that we will mail to the holder or by wire transfer to certain holders. Unless we otherwise indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will designate the corporate trust office of the debenture trustee in the City of New York as our sole paying agent for payments with respect to debt securities of each series. We will name in the applicable prospectus supplement any other paying agents that we initially designate for the debt securities of a particular series. We will maintain a paying agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of a particular series.

All money we pay to a paying agent or the debenture trustee for the payment of the principal of, or any premium or interest on, any debt securities that remains unclaimed at the end of two years after such principal, premium or interest has become due and payable will be repaid to us, and the holder of the debt security thereafter may look only to us for payment thereof.

Governing Law

The indentures and the debt securities will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York, except to the extent that the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 is applicable.

Subordination of Subordinated Debt Securities

The subordinated debt securities will be unsecured and will be subordinate and junior in priority of payment to certain of our other indebtedness to the extent described in a prospectus supplement. The subordinated indenture does not limit the amount of subordinated debt securities that we may issue, nor does it limit us from issuing any other secured or unsecured debt.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may issue warrants for the purchase of common stock, preferred stock and/or debt securities in one or more series. We may issue warrants independently or together with common stock, preferred stock and/or debt securities, and the warrants may be attached to or separate from these securities. While the terms summarized below will apply generally to any warrants that we may offer, we will describe the particular terms of any series of warrants in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms of any warrants offered under a prospectus supplement may differ from

the terms described below.

Table of Contents

We will file as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or will incorporate by reference from reports that we file with the SEC, the form of warrant agreement, including a form of warrant certificate, that describes the terms of the particular series of warrants we are offering before the issuance of the related series of warrants. The following summaries of material provisions of the warrants and the warrant agreements are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, all the provisions of the warrant agreement and warrant certificate applicable to the particular series of warrants that we may offer under this prospectus. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplements related to the particular series of warrants that we may offer under this prospectus, as well as any related free writing prospectuses, and the complete warrant agreements and warrant certificates that contain the terms of the warrants.

General

We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the terms of the series of warrants being offered, including:

the offering price and aggregate number of warrants offered;

the currency for which the warrants may be purchased;

if applicable, the designation and terms of the securities with which the warrants are issued and the number of warrants issued with each such security or each principal amount of such security;

if applicable, the date on and after which the warrants and the related securities will be separately transferable;

in the case of warrants to purchase debt securities, the principal amount of debt securities purchasable upon exercise of one warrant and the price at which, and currency in which, this principal amount of debt securities may be purchased upon such exercise;

in the case of warrants to purchase common stock or preferred stock, the number of shares of common stock or preferred stock, as the case may be, purchasable upon the exercise of one warrant and the price at which these shares may be purchased upon such exercise;

the effect of any merger, consolidation, sale or other disposition of our business on the warrant agreements and the warrants;

the terms of any rights to redeem or call the warrants;

any provisions for changes to or adjustments in the exercise price or number of securities issuable upon exercise of the warrants;

the dates on which the right to exercise the warrants will commence and expire;

the manner in which the warrant agreements and warrants may be modified;

a discussion of any material or special U.S. federal income tax consequences of holding or exercising the warrants;

the terms of the securities issuable upon exercise of the warrants; and

any other specific terms, preferences, rights or limitations of or restrictions on the warrants.

Unless we otherwise indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, before exercising their warrants, holders of warrants will not have any of the rights of holders of the securities purchasable upon such exercise, including:

in the case of warrants to purchase debt securities, the right to receive payments of principal of, or premium, if any, or interest on the debt securities purchasable upon exercise or to enforce covenants in the applicable indenture; or

in the case of warrants to purchase common stock or preferred stock, the right to receive dividends, if any, or payments upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up or to exercise voting rights, if any.

Table of Contents

Exercise of Warrants

Each warrant will entitle the holder to purchase the securities that we specify in the applicable prospectus supplement at the exercise price that we describe in the applicable prospectus supplement. Holders of the warrants may exercise the warrants at any time up to the specified time on the expiration date that we set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. After the specified time on the expiration date, unexercised warrants will become void.

Holders of the warrants may exercise the warrants by delivering the warrant certificate representing the warrants to be exercised together with specified information, and paying the required amount to the warrant agent or the Company, as applicable, in immediately available funds, as provided in the applicable prospectus supplement. We will set forth on the reverse side of the warrant certificate and in the applicable prospectus supplement the information that the holder of the warrant will be required to deliver to the warrant agent upon exercise.

Upon receipt of the required payment and the warrant certificate properly completed and duly executed at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will issue and deliver the securities purchasable upon such exercise. If fewer than all of the warrants represented by the warrant certificate are exercised, then we will issue a new warrant certificate for the remaining amount of warrants. If we so indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, holders of the warrants may surrender securities as all or part of the exercise price for warrants.

Governing Law

Unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the warrants and warrant agreements will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

Enforceability of Rights by Holders of Warrants

Each warrant agent, if any, will act solely as our agent under the applicable warrant agreement and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust with any holder of any warrant. A single bank or trust company may act as warrant agent for more than one issue of warrants. A warrant agent will have no duty or responsibility in case of any default by us under the applicable warrant agreement or warrant, including any duty or responsibility to initiate any proceedings at law or otherwise, or to make any demand upon us. Any holder of a warrant may, without the consent of the related warrant agent or the holder of any other warrant, enforce by appropriate legal action its right to exercise, and receive the securities purchasable upon exercise of, its warrants.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

We may issue, in one more series, units consisting of common stock, preferred stock, debt securities and/or warrants for the purchase of common stock, preferred stock and/or debt securities in any combination. While the terms we have summarized below will apply generally to any units that we may offer under this prospectus, we will describe the particular terms of any series of units in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms of any units offered under a prospectus supplement may differ from the terms described below.

We will file as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or will incorporate by reference from reports that we file with the SEC, the form of unit agreement, if any, that describes the terms of the series of units we are offering, and any supplemental agreements, before the issuance of the related series of units. The following summaries of material terms and provisions of the units are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, all the provisions of the unit agreement, if any, and any supplemental agreements applicable to a particular series of units, if any. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplements related to the particular series of units that we may offer under this prospectus, as well as any related free writing prospectuses and the complete unit agreement, if any, and any supplemental agreements, if any, that contain the terms of the units.

General

Each unit will be issued so that the holder of the unit is also the holder of each security included in the unit. Thus, the holder of a unit will have the rights and obligations of a holder of each included security. The unit agreement under which a unit is issued, if any, may provide that the securities included in the unit may not be held or transferred separately, at any time or at any time before a specified date.

We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the terms of the series of units being offered, including:

the designation and terms of the units and of the securities comprising the units, including whether and under what circumstances those securities may be held or transferred separately;

any provisions of any governing unit agreement that differ from those described below; and

any provisions for the issuance, payment, settlement, transfer or exchange of the units or of the securities comprising the units.

The provisions described in this section, as well as those described under the headings **Description of Capital Stock**, **Description of Debt Securities** and **Description of Warrants** will apply to each unit and to any common stock, preferred stock, debt security or warrant included in each unit, respectively.

Issuance in Series

We may issue units in such amounts and in such numerous distinct series as we determine.

Enforceability of Rights by Holders of Units

Each unit agent, if any, will act solely as our agent under the applicable unit agreement and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust with any holder of any unit. A single bank or trust company may act as unit agent for more than one series of units. A unit agent will have no duty or responsibility in case of any default by us under the applicable unit agreement, if any, or unit, including any duty or responsibility to initiate any proceedings at law or otherwise, or to make any demand upon us. Any holder of a unit may, without the consent of the related unit agent, if any, or the holder of any other unit, enforce by appropriate legal action its rights as a holder under any security included in the unit.

Table of Contents

Title

We, and any unit agent and any of their agents, may treat the registered holder of any unit certificate as an absolute owner of the units evidenced by that certificate for any purpose and as the person entitled to exercise the rights attaching to the units so requested, despite any notice to the contrary. See the section entitled "Legal Ownership of Securities" below.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF OUTSTANDING WARRANTS

In December 2013, we issued warrants to purchase 1,420,250 shares of our common stock (the 2013 Warrants) in a firm commitment underwritten public offering. The 2013 Warrants were exercisable from the date of the original issuance and will expire on December 16, 2018. The 2013 Warrants contain certain anti-dilution protections, as more fully described below, and have an exercise price of \$3.57 as of the date of this prospectus. The offering and sale of the 2013 Warrants, and the shares of common stock underlying the 2013 Warrants, were registered under the Prior Registration Statement.

In August 2014, we issued warrants to purchase 2,000,000 shares of our common stock (the 2014 Warrants) in a firm commitment underwritten public offering. The 2014 Warrants were exercisable from the date of the original issuance and will expire on August 5, 2019. The 2014 Warrants contain certain anti-dilution protections, as more fully described below, and have an exercise price of \$2.51 as of the date of this prospectus. The offering and sale of the 2014 Warrants, and the shares of common stock underlying the 2014 Warrants, were registered under the Prior Registration Statement.

In February 2015, we issued Series A warrants to purchase 2,216,667 shares of our common stock (the Series A Warrants) in a firm commitment underwritten public offering. The Series A Warrants were exercisable from the date of the original issuance and will expire on February 3, 2020. The Series A Warrants contain certain anti-dilution protections, as more fully described below, and have an exercise price of \$0.30 as of the date of this prospectus. The offering and sale of the Series A Warrants, and the shares of common stock underlying the Series A Warrants, were registered under the Prior Registration Statement.

In May 2015, we issued Series C warrants to purchase 430,000 shares of our common stock (the Series C Warrants) in a firm commitment underwritten public offering. The Series C Warrants were exercisable from the date of the original issuance and will expire on May 19, 2020. The Series C Warrants contain certain anti-dilution protections, as more fully described below, and have an exercise price of \$1.84 as of the date of this prospectus. The offering and sale of the Series C Warrants, and the shares of common stock underlying the Series C Warrants, were registered under the Prior Registration Statement.

In December 2015, we issued Series D warrants to purchase 10,050,000 shares of our common stock (the Series D Warrants) in a firm commitment underwritten public offering. The Series D Warrants were exercisable beginning on June 11, 2016 and will expire on December 11, 2020. The Series D Warrants have an exercise price of \$0.10 as of the date of this prospectus and the holders of Series D Warrants are not entitled to any further anti-dilution adjustments. The offering and sale of the Series D Warrants, and the shares of common stock underlying the Series D Warrants, were registered under the Prior Registration Statement.

In April 2016, we issued Series F warrants to purchase 10,292,858 shares of our common stock (the Series F Warrants) and Series H Warrants to purchase 20,585,716 shares of our common stock (the Series H Warrants and, together with the 2013 Warrants, the 2014 Warrants, the Series A Warrants, the Series C Warrants, the Series D Warrants and the Series F Warrants, the Warrants) in a firm commitment underwritten public offering. The Series F Warrants will be exercisable beginning on October 1, 2016 and will expire on April 1, 2021. The Series F Warrants contain certain anti-dilution protections, as more fully described below, and have an exercise price of \$0.30 as of the date of this prospectus. The Series H Warrants were exercisable from the date of the original issuance, will expire on October 1, 2016 and have an exercise price of \$0.75 per share as of the date of this prospectus. The offering and sale of the Series F Warrants and the Series H Warrants, and the shares of common stock underlying the Series F Warrants and the Series H Warrants, were registered under the Prior Registration Statement.

The Company has the right at any time during the term of the Series D Warrants, Series F Warrants or Series H Warrants to reduce the then-existing exercise price of the Series D Warrants, Series F Warrants or Series H Warrants, respectively, to any amount and for any period of time deemed appropriate by our board of directors.

Table of Contents

As of the date of this prospectus, the following number of each series of Warrants remain unexercised and outstanding:

2013 Warrants	1,115,476
2014 Warrants	389,229
Series A Warrants	228,332
Series C Warrants	430,000
Series D Warrants	43,600
Series F Warrants	10,292,858
Series H Warrants	2,557,000
Total	15,076,495

Exercise Mechanics

The Warrants may be exercised by delivering to the Company and/or the warrant agent, as applicable, a written notice of election to exercise, appropriately completed, duly signed and delivered, and delivering to the Company cash payment of the exercise price, if applicable. Upon delivery of the written notice of election to exercise, appropriately completed and duly signed, and cash payment of the exercise price, if applicable, on and subject to the terms and conditions of the Warrant or warrant agreement governing such series of Warrants, as applicable, we will deliver or cause to be delivered, to or upon the written order of such holder, the number of whole shares of common stock to which the holder is entitled, which shares may be delivered in book-entry form. No fractional shares will be issued upon exercise of the Warrants. If a Warrant is exercised for fewer than all of the shares of common stock for which such warrant may be exercised, then upon request of the holder and surrender of such Warrant, we may issue a new Warrant or warrant certificate exercisable for the remaining number of shares of common stock.

If, and only if, a registration statement relating to the issuance of the Warrant Shares underlying any series of the Warrants is not then effective or available, a holder of such series of Warrants may exercise such Warrants on a cashless basis, where the holder receives the net value of such Warrants in shares of common stock. However, if an effective registration statement is available for the issuance of the shares underlying a series of Warrants, a holder of such series of Warrants may only exercise such Warrants through a cash exercise. Shares issued pursuant to a cashless exercise would be issued pursuant to the exemption from registration provided by Section 3(a)(9) of the Securities Act, and thus the shares of common stock issued upon such cashless exercise would take on the characteristics of the Warrants being exercised, including, for purposes of Rule 144(d) promulgated under the Securities Act, a holding period beginning from the original issuance date of such Warrants.

If we fail to timely deliver shares of common stock pursuant to any exercise of any Series D Warrant, Series F Warrant or Series H Warrant, and such exercising holder elects to purchase shares of common stock (in an open market transaction or otherwise) to deliver in satisfaction of a sale by such holder of all or a portion of the shares of common stock for which such Warrant was exercised, then we will be required to deliver, at the holder's election, either (i) an amount in cash equal to the full purchase price paid by the holder to acquire such alternative shares or (ii) (A) the shares of common stock for which the Series D Warrant, Series F Warrant or Series H Warrant, as applicable, was exercised and (B) an amount in cash equal to the excess (if any) by which the price paid for the alternative shares exceeds the lowest closing sale price of our common stock during the period beginning on the exercise date and ending on the date such payment is delivered. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if we are prohibited by restrictions contained in any of our credit agreements from making any payments described above in cash, we may instead satisfy any such payment obligation by delivering to the holder a number of shares of common stock equal to the cash payment amount divided by 90% of the last volume weighted average price of our common stock on the date of such

payment.

Table of Contents

Fundamental or Extraordinary Transactions

If, at any time while the Warrants are outstanding, we directly or indirectly, in one or more related transactions, enter into a fundamental transaction or extraordinary transaction, as described in the applicable Warrants or warrant agreements and generally including any merger with or into another entity, sale of all or substantially all of our assets, tender offer or exchange offer, or reclassification of our common stock, then each holder shall become entitled to receive the same amount and kind of securities, cash or property as such holder would have been entitled to receive upon the occurrence of such fundamental or extraordinary transaction if the holder had been, immediately prior to such fundamental or extraordinary transaction, the holder of the number of shares of common stock then issuable upon exercise of such holder's Warrants. Any successor to us, surviving entity or the corporation purchasing or otherwise acquiring such assets shall assume the obligation to deliver to the holder such alternate consideration, and the other obligations, under the Warrants.

Additionally, in the event of an extraordinary transaction in which the 2013 Warrants, 2014 Warrants, Series A Warrants or Series C Warrants are assumed by a company that is not a publicly traded company, we or any successor entity will pay at the option of any holder of such Warrants, exercisable at any time concurrently with or within 30 days after the consummation of the extraordinary transaction, an amount of cash equal to the value of such Warrants as determined in accordance with the Black Scholes option pricing model and the terms of such Warrants.

In the event of a fundamental transaction, we or the successor entity will, at the option of any holder of Series D Warrants, Series F Warrants or Series H Warrants, exercisable prior to the date that is 30 days after the public announcement of the consummation of the fundamental transaction, purchase the unexercised portion of such Warrants for an amount of cash equal to the value of such Warrants as determined in accordance with the Black Scholes option pricing model and the terms of such Warrants.

Anti-Dilution Adjustments

The exercise price and the number and type of securities purchasable upon exercise of the Warrants are subject to adjustment upon certain corporate events, including certain combinations, consolidations, liquidations, mergers, recapitalizations, reclassifications, reorganizations, stock dividends and stock splits, a sale of all or substantially all of our assets and certain other events.

The 2013 Warrants, 2014 Warrants and Series C Warrants contain broad-based weighted average anti-dilution protection upon the issuance of any common stock, securities convertible into common stock or certain other issuances at a price below the then-existing exercise price of such Warrants, with certain exceptions; provided, however, that in no event will the exercise price of the 2013 Warrants, 2014 Warrants or Series C Warrants be less than \$0.10 per share.

The Series A Warrants and Series F Warrants contain full ratchet anti-dilution protection upon the issuance of any common stock, securities convertible into common stock or certain other issuances at a price below the then-existing exercise price of the Series A Warrants and/or Series F Warrants, as applicable, with certain exceptions; provided, however, that in no event shall the exercise price of the Series F Warrants be less than \$0.10 per share (as adjusted for stock splits, stock dividends, stock combinations, recapitalizations and similar events).

The terms of the Warrants, including the anti-dilution protections described above, may make it difficult for us to raise additional capital at prevailing market terms in the future.

Rights as a Stockholder

Except as set forth in the respective Warrants, the Warrants do not confer upon holders any voting or other rights as stockholders of the Company.

Table of Contents

If, at any time while the Series D Warrants, Series F Warrants or Series H Warrants are outstanding, we declare or make any dividend or other distribution of our assets to holders of shares of our common stock, by way of return of capital or otherwise (including, without limitation, any distribution of cash, stock or other securities, property, options, evidence of indebtedness or any other assets by way of a dividend, spin off, reclassification, corporate rearrangement, scheme of arrangement or other similar transaction) or we grant, issue or sell any options, convertible securities or rights to purchase stock, warrants, securities or other property pro rata to the record holders of any class of common stock (in each case, Distributed Property), then each holder of a Series D Warrant, Series F Warrant or Series H Warrant shall receive, with respect to the shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of such Series D Warrant, Series F Warrant or Series H Warrant, the Distributed Property that such holder would have been entitled to receive had the holder been the record holder of such number of shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the Warrant immediately prior to the record date for such Distributed Property.

Ownership Limitation

Any exercise notice with respect to 2013 Warrants, 2014 Warrants, Series A Warrants or Series C Warrants delivered by a holder thereof will be deemed automatically not to have been so delivered by such holder to the extent, but only to the extent, that delivery of shares of our common stock or any other security otherwise deliverable upon such exercise would result in such holder having a beneficial ownership, as determined in accordance with Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act and the rules thereunder (Beneficial Ownership), of our common stock or any other class of registered equity security (a Class) in excess of 19.999% of the number of outstanding shares of our common stock or such Class (the 19.999% Ownership Limitation). Any purported delivery to any holder shall be void and have no effect to the extent, but only to the extent, that after such delivery, such holder would have Beneficial Ownership of our common stock or any such Class in excess of the 19.999% Ownership Limitation.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, during any period of time in which the Beneficial Ownership of our common stock by any holder of 2013 Warrants, 2014 Warrants, Series A Warrants or Series C Warrants is less than 10%, any exercise notice with respect to 2013 Warrants, 2014 Warrants, Series A Warrants or Series C Warrants delivered by such a holder will be deemed automatically not to have been so delivered by such holder to the extent, but only to the extent, that delivery of shares of our common stock or any other security otherwise deliverable upon such exercise would result in such holder having a Beneficial Ownership of our common stock or any other Class in excess of 9.999% of the number of outstanding shares of our common stock or such Class (the 9.999% Ownership Limitation). Any purported delivery to any such holder shall be void and have no effect to the extent, but only to the extent, that after such delivery, such holder would have Beneficial Ownership of our common stock or any such Class in excess of the 9.999% Ownership Limitation.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, during any period of time in which the Beneficial Ownership of our common stock by any holder of 2013 Warrants, 2014 Warrants, Series A Warrants or Series C Warrants is less than 5%, any exercise notice with respect to 2013 Warrants, 2014 Warrants, Series A Warrants or Series C Warrants delivered by such a holder will be deemed automatically not to have been so delivered by such holder to the extent, but only to the extent, that delivery of shares of our common stock or any other security otherwise deliverable upon such exercise would result in such holder having a Beneficial Ownership of our common stock in excess of 4.999% of the number of outstanding shares of our common stock or such Class (the 4.999% Ownership Limitation). Any purported delivery to any such holder whose Beneficial Ownership of our common stock is less than 5% shall be void and have no effect to the extent, but only to the extent, that after such delivery, such holder would have Beneficial Ownership of our common stock or any such Class in excess of the 4.999% Ownership Limitation.

By written notice to us, any holder of 2013 Warrants, 2014 Warrants, Series A Warrants or Series C Warrants may from time to time increase or decrease either or both of the 9.999% Ownership Limitation or the 4.999% Ownership

Limitation to any other percentage not in excess of the 19.999% Ownership Limitation; provided that any such increase will not be effective until the 61st day after such notice is delivered to us.

Table of Contents

Any exercise notice with respect to Series D Warrants, Series F Warrants or Series H Warrants delivered by a holder thereof will be deemed automatically not to have been so delivered by such holder to the extent, but only to the extent, that delivery of shares of our common stock or any other security otherwise deliverable upon such exercise would result in such holder having Beneficial Ownership in excess of the 4.999% Ownership Limitation. Any purported delivery to any holder shall be void and have no effect to the extent, but only to the extent, that after such delivery, such holder would have Beneficial Ownership of our common stock or any such Class in excess of the 4.999% Ownership Limitation.

By written notice to us, any holder of Series D Warrants, Series F Warrants or Series H Warrants may increase or decrease this beneficial ownership limitation to any other percentage not in excess of 9.99%; provided that any such increase will not be effective until the 61st day after such notice is delivered to us.

For purposes of calculating Beneficial Ownership for each of the immediately six preceding paragraphs, the aggregate number of shares of our common stock beneficially owned by a holder will include the number of shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise of the Warrants with respect to which the determination of such sentence is being made, but shall exclude the number of shares of our common stock which are issuable upon (i) exercise of the remaining, unexercised Warrants beneficially owned by such holder, and (ii) exercise or conversion of the unexercised or unconverted portion of any of our other securities beneficially owned by such holder (including, without limitation, any convertible notes, convertible stock or warrants) that are subject to a limitation on conversion or exercise analogous to the limitation contained herein.

These ownership limitations will be construed, corrected and implemented in a manner so as to effectuate the intended beneficial ownership limitations herein contained and the shares of our common stock underlying the Warrants in excess of the 19.999% Ownership Limitation, 9.999% Ownership Limitation or the 4.999% Ownership Limitation will not be deemed to be beneficially owned by a holder for any purpose including for purposes of Section 13(d) or Rule 16a-1(a)(1) of the Exchange Act.

Table of Contents

LEGAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

We can issue securities in registered form or in the form of one or more global securities. We describe global securities in greater detail below. We refer to those persons who have securities registered in their own names on the books that we or any applicable trustee, depository or warrant agent maintain for this purpose as the holders of those securities. These persons are the legal holders of the securities. We refer to those persons who, indirectly through others, own beneficial interests in securities that are not registered in their own names, as indirect holders of those securities. As we discuss below, indirect holders are not legal holders, and investors in securities issued in book-entry form or in street name will be indirect holders.

Book-Entry Holders

We may issue securities in book-entry form only, as we will specify in the applicable prospectus supplement. This means securities may be represented by one or more global securities registered in the name of a financial institution that holds them as depository on behalf of other financial institutions that participate in the depository's book-entry system. These participating institutions, which are referred to as participants, in turn, hold beneficial interests in the securities on behalf of themselves or their customers.

Only the person in whose name a security is registered is recognized as the holder of that security. Securities issued in global form will be registered in the name of the depository or its participants. Consequently, for securities issued in global form, we will recognize only the depository as the holder of the securities, and we will make all payments on the securities to the depository. The depository passes along the payments it receives to its participants, which in turn pass the payments along to their customers who are the beneficial owners. The depository and its participants do so under agreements they have made with one another or with their customers; they are not obligated to do so under the terms of the securities.

As a result, investors in a book-entry security will not own securities directly. Instead, they will own beneficial interests in a global security, through a bank, broker or other financial institution that participates in the depository's book-entry system or holds an interest through a participant. As long as the securities are issued in global form, investors will be indirect holders, and not legal holders, of the securities.

Street Name Holders

We may terminate a global security or issue securities in non-global form. In these cases, investors may choose to hold their securities in their own names or in street name. Securities held by an investor in street name would be registered in the name of a bank, broker or other financial institution that the investor chooses, and the investor would hold only a beneficial interest in those securities through an account he or she maintains at that institution.

For securities held in street name, we will recognize only the intermediary banks, brokers and other financial institutions in whose names the securities are registered as the holders of those securities, and we will make all payments on those securities to them. These institutions pass along the payments they receive to their customers who are the beneficial owners, but only because they agree to do so in their customer agreements or because they are legally required to do so. Investors who hold securities in street name will be indirect holders, not legal holders, of those securities.

Legal Holders

Our obligations, as well as the obligations of any applicable trustee and of any third parties employed by us or a trustee, run only to the legal holders of the securities. We do not have obligations to investors who hold beneficial interests in global securities, in street name or by any other indirect means. This will be the case whether an investor chooses to be an indirect holder of a security or has no choice because we are issuing the securities only in global form.

Table of Contents

For example, once we make a payment or give a notice to the legal holder, we have no further responsibility for the payment or notice even if that legal holder is required, under agreements with depository participants or customers or by law, to pass it along to the indirect holders but does not do so. Similarly, we may want to obtain the approval of the legal holders to amend an indenture, to relieve us of the consequences of a default or of our obligation to comply with a particular provision of the indenture or for other purposes. In such an event, we would seek approval only from the legal holders, and not the indirect holders, of the securities. Whether and how the legal holders contact the indirect holders is up to the legal holders.

Special Considerations For Indirect Holders

If you hold securities through a bank, broker or other financial institution, either in book-entry form or in street name, you should check with your own institution to find out:

how it handles securities payments and notices;

whether it imposes fees or charges;

how it would handle a request for the holders' consent, if ever required;

whether and how you can instruct it to send you securities registered in your own name so you can be a legal holder, if that is permitted in the future;

how it would exercise rights under the securities if there were a default or other event triggering the need for holders to act to protect their interests; and

if the securities are in book-entry form, how the depository's rules and procedures will affect these matters.

Global Securities

A global security is a security that represents one or any other number of individual securities held by a depository. Generally, all securities represented by the same global securities will have the same terms.

Each security issued in book-entry form will be represented by a global security that we deposit with and register in the name of a financial institution or its nominee that we select. The financial institution that we select for this purpose is called the depository. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, DTC will be the depository for all securities issued in book-entry form.

A global security may not be transferred to or registered in the name of anyone other than the depository, its nominee or a successor depository, unless special termination situations arise. We describe those situations below under **Special Situations When a Global Security Will Be Terminated**. As a result of these arrangements, the depository, or its nominee, will be the sole registered owner and holder of all securities represented by a global security, and investors will be permitted to own only beneficial interests in a global security. Beneficial interests must be held by means of an

account with a broker, bank or other financial institution that in turn has an account with the depository or with another institution that does. Thus, an investor whose security is represented by a global security will not be a legal holder of the security, but only an indirect holder of a beneficial interest in the global security.

If the prospectus supplement for a particular security indicates that the security will be issued in global form only, then the security will be represented by a global security at all times unless and until the global security is terminated. If termination occurs, we may issue the securities through another book-entry clearing system or decide that the securities may no longer be held through any book-entry clearing system.

Table of Contents

Special Considerations For Global Securities

The rights of an indirect holder relating to a global security will be governed by the account rules of the investor's financial institution and of the depositary, as well as general laws relating to securities transfers. We do not recognize an indirect holder as a legal holder of securities and instead deal only with the depositary that holds the global security.

If securities are issued only in the form of a global security, an investor should be aware of the following:

an investor cannot cause the securities to be registered in his or her name, and cannot obtain non-global certificates for his or her interest in the securities, except in the special situations we describe below;

an investor will be an indirect holder and must look to his or her own bank or broker for payments on the securities and protection of his or her legal rights relating to the securities, as we describe above;

an investor may not be able to sell interests in the securities to some insurance companies and to other institutions that are required by law to own their securities in non-book-entry form;

an investor may not be able to pledge his or her interest in a global security in circumstances where certificates representing the securities must be delivered to the lender or other beneficiary of the pledge in order for the pledge to be effective;

the depositary's policies, which may change from time to time, will govern payments, transfers, exchanges and other matters relating to an investor's interest in a global security;

we and any applicable trustee have no responsibility for any aspect of the depositary's actions or for its records of ownership interests in a global security, nor do we or any applicable trustee supervise the depositary in any way;

the depositary may, and we understand that DTC will, require that those who purchase and sell interests in a global security within its book-entry system use immediately available funds, and your broker or bank may require you to do so as well; and

financial institutions that participate in the depositary's book-entry system, and through which an investor holds its interest in a global security, may also have their own policies affecting payments, notices and other matters relating to the securities.

There may be more than one financial intermediary in the chain of ownership for an investor. We do not monitor and are not responsible for the actions of any of those intermediaries.

Special Situations When a Global Security Will Be Terminated

In a few special situations described below, the global security will terminate and interests in it will be exchanged for physical certificates representing those interests. After that exchange, the choice of whether to hold securities directly or in street name will be up to the investor. Investors must consult their own banks or brokers to find out how to have their interests in securities transferred to their own name, so that they will be direct holders. We have described the rights of holders and street name investors above.

Unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the global security will terminate when the following special situations occur:

if the depositary notifies us that it is unwilling, unable or no longer qualified to continue as depositary for that global security and we do not appoint another institution to act as depositary within 90 days;

if we notify any applicable trustee that we wish to terminate that global security; or

if an event of default has occurred with regard to securities represented by that global security and has not been cured or waived.

Table of Contents

The prospectus supplement may also list additional situations for terminating a global security that would apply only to the particular series of securities covered by the applicable prospectus supplement. When a global security terminates, the depository, and not we or any applicable trustee, is responsible for deciding the names of the institutions that will be the initial direct holders.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

Unallocated Securities

We may sell the unallocated securities covered by this prospectus from time to time pursuant to underwritten public offerings, negotiated transactions, block trades or a combination of these methods. We may sell such securities to or through underwriters or dealers, through agents, or directly to one or more purchasers. We may distribute such securities from time to time in one or more transactions:

at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed;

at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;

at prices related to such prevailing market prices; or

at negotiated prices.

A prospectus supplement or supplements will describe the terms of the offering of the securities, including:

the name or names of the underwriters, if any;

the purchase price of the securities and the proceeds we will receive from the sale;

any over-allotment options under which underwriters may purchase additional securities from us;

any agency fees or underwriting discounts and other items constituting agents' or underwriters' compensation;

any public offering price;

any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers; and

any securities exchange or market on which the securities may be listed.

Only underwriters named in the prospectus supplement applicable to such offering will be underwriters of the securities offered by such prospectus supplement.

If underwriters are used in the sale, they will acquire the securities for their own account and may resell the securities from time to time in one or more transactions at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. The obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to the conditions set forth in the applicable underwriting agreement. We may offer the securities to the public through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters or by underwriters without a syndicate. Subject to certain conditions, the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of the securities offered by the prospectus supplement, other than securities covered by any over-allotment option. Any public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may change from time to time. We may use underwriters with whom we have a material relationship. We will describe in the prospectus supplement, naming the underwriter, the nature of any such relationship.

We may sell securities directly or through agents we designate from time to time. We will name any agent involved in the offering and sale of securities and we will describe any commissions we will pay the agent in the prospectus supplement. Unless the prospectus supplement states otherwise, our agent will act on a best-efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

Table of Contents

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

We may provide agents and underwriters with indemnification against civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or contribution with respect to payments that the agents or underwriters may make with respect to these liabilities. Agents and underwriters may engage in transactions with, or perform services for, us in the ordinary course of business.

All securities we may offer, other than common stock, will be new issues of securities with no established trading market. Any underwriters may make a market in these securities, but will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. We cannot guarantee the liquidity of the trading markets for any securities.

Any underwriter may engage in over-allotment, stabilizing transactions, short-covering transactions and penalty bids in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act. Over-allotment involves sales in excess of the offering size, which create a short position. Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum price. Syndicate-covering or other short-covering transactions involve purchases of the securities, either through exercise of the over-allotment option or in the open market after the distribution is completed, to cover short positions. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a dealer when the securities originally sold by the dealer are purchased in a stabilizing or covering transaction to cover short positions. Those activities may cause the price of the securities to be higher than it would otherwise be. If commenced, the underwriters may discontinue any such activities at any time.

Any underwriters that are qualified market makers on the NASDAQ Capital Market may engage in passive market making transactions in the common stock on the NASDAQ Capital Market in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act, during the business day prior to the pricing of the offering, before the commencement of offers or sales of the common stock. Passive market makers must comply with applicable volume and price limitations and must be identified as passive market makers. In general, a passive market maker must display its bid at a price not in excess of the highest independent bid for such security; if all independent bids are lowered below the passive market maker's bid, however, the passive market maker's bid must then be lowered when certain purchase limits are exceeded. Passive market making may stabilize the market price of the securities at a level above that which might otherwise prevail in the open market and, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time.

In compliance with guidelines of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, or FINRA, the maximum consideration or discount to be received by any FINRA member or independent broker dealer may not exceed 8% of the aggregate amount of the securities offered pursuant to this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement.

Warrant Shares

We will sell the Warrant Shares covered by this prospectus from time to time only to the holders of the applicable Warrants upon exercise of such Warrants in accordance with the terms thereof.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the securities being offered by this prospectus will be passed upon by Paul Hastings LLP, San Diego, California.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2015 incorporated by reference in this prospectus and elsewhere in the registration statement have been so incorporated by reference in reliance upon the report of Grant Thornton LLP, independent registered public accountants, upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

The consolidated financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 (before the retrospective adjustments to the consolidated financial statements and financial statement disclosures relating to the reverse stock split) (not separately presented herein) incorporated in this prospectus by reference from the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report (which report expresses an unqualified opinion and includes explanatory paragraphs referring to the Company's going concern uncertainty and development activities and the reverse stock split), which is incorporated herein by reference. Those retrospective adjustments relating to the reverse stock split were audited by other auditors. Such 2013 and 2014 consolidated financial statements have been so incorporated in reliance upon the report of Deloitte & Touche LLP given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

MATERIAL CHANGES

In the first quarter of 2016, the Company adopted ASU 2015-03, *Interest Imputation of Interest (Subtopic 835-30)*. This ASU requires companies to present, in the balance sheet, debt issuance costs as a direct deduction from the carrying amount of their debt, consistent with debt discounts. The retrospective impact on the Company's balance sheets as of December 31, 2015 and 2014 is immaterial and resulted in a reduction in assets and debt of \$0.3 million and \$0.5 million, respectively.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Available Information

We file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document we file at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for more information about the operation of the public reference room. The SEC maintains an Internet website at <http://www.sec.gov> that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC, including Gevo, Inc. You may also access our reports and proxy statements free of charge at our Internet website, <http://www.gevo.com>.

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we have filed with the SEC relating to the securities to be offered. This prospectus does not contain all of the information we have included in the registration statement and the accompanying exhibits and schedules in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC, and we refer you to the omitted information. The statements this prospectus makes pertaining to the content of any contract, agreement or other document that is an exhibit to the registration statement necessarily are summaries of their material provisions and do not describe all exceptions and qualifications contained in those

Table of Contents

contracts, agreements or documents. You should read those contracts, agreements or documents for information that may be important to you. The registration statement, exhibits and schedules are available at the SEC's Public Reference Room or through its Internet website.

Incorporation by Reference

The rules of the SEC allow us to incorporate by reference in 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 that we have filed separately with the SEC. You should read the information incorporated by reference because it is an important part of this prospectus. We hereby incorporate by reference the following information or documents into this prospectus:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015 filed with the SEC on March 30, 2016;

our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2016, filed with the SEC on May 12, 2016;

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 22, 2016, January 26, 2016, February 5, 2016, March 29, 2016, April 5, 2016, June 13, 2016 and June 20, 2016; and

the description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-168792), filed with the SEC on August 12, 2010, including any subsequent amendment or report filed for the purpose of amending such description.

Any information in any of the foregoing documents will automatically be deemed to be modified or superseded to the extent that information in this prospectus or in a later filed document that is incorporated or deemed to be incorporated herein by reference modifies or replaces such information.

We also incorporate by reference any future filings (other than current reports furnished under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of Form 8-K and exhibits filed on such form that are related to such items) made with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, until we file a post-effective amendment which indicates that all securities offered hereby have been sold or which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold. Information in such future filings updates and supplements the information provided in this prospectus. Any statements in any such future filings will automatically be deemed to modify and supersede any information in any document we previously filed with the SEC that is incorporated or deemed to be incorporated herein by reference to the extent that statements in the later filed document modify or replace such earlier statements.

Upon written or oral request, we will provide to you, without charge, a copy of any or all of the documents that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus but not delivered with the prospectus, including exhibits which are specifically incorporated by reference into such documents. Requests should be directed to: Gevo, Inc., Attention: Investor Relations, 345 Inverness Drive South, Building C, Suite 310, Englewood, Colorado, 80112, telephone (303) 858-8358.

Table of Contents

Gevo, Inc.

Up to \$5,000,000

Common Stock

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

H.C. Wainwright & Co.

February 13, 2018