

PROSPECT CAPITAL CORP

Form 497

March 16, 2011

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**Filed Pursuant to Rule 497(c)
Registration No. 333-170724**

\$750,000,000

PROSPECT CAPITAL CORPORATION

**Common Stock
Preferred Stock
Debt Securities
Warrants**

We may offer, from time to time, in one or more offerings or series, together or separately, up to \$750,000,000 of our common stock, preferred stock, debt securities or warrants representing rights to purchase shares of common stock, preferred stock or debt securities, collectively, the Securities, to provide us with additional capital. Securities may be offered at prices and on terms to be disclosed in one or more supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement carefully before you invest in our Securities.

We may offer shares of common stock, or warrants, options or rights to acquire shares of common stock, at a discount to net asset value per share in certain circumstances. Sales of common stock at prices below net asset value per share dilute the interests of existing stockholders, have the effect of reducing our net asset value per share and may reduce our market price per share.

Our Securities may be offered directly to one or more purchasers, or through agents designated from time to time by us, or to or through underwriters or dealers. The prospectus supplement relating to the offering will identify any agents or underwriters involved in the sale of our Securities, and will disclose any applicable purchase price, fee, commission or discount arrangement between us and our agents or underwriters or among our underwriters or the basis upon which such amount may be calculated. See Plan of Distribution. We may not sell any of our Securities through agents, underwriters or dealers without delivery of the prospectus and a prospectus supplement describing the method and terms of the offering of such Securities. Our common stock is traded on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol PSEC. As of March 11, 2011, the last reported sales price for our common stock was \$11.81.

Prospect Capital Corporation, or the Company, is a company that lends to and invests in middle market privately-held companies. Prospect Capital Corporation, a Maryland corporation, has been organized as a closed-end investment company since April 13, 2004 and has filed an election to be treated as a business development company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, or the 1940 Act, and is a non-diversified investment company within the meaning of the 1940 Act.

Prospect Capital Management LLC, our investment adviser, manages our investments and Prospect Administration LLC, our administrator, provides the administrative services necessary for us to operate.

Investing in our Securities involves a heightened risk of total loss of investment and is subject to risks. Before buying any Securities, you should read the discussion of the material risks of investing in our Securities in Risk Factors beginning on page 9 of this prospectus.

This prospectus contains important information about us that you should know before investing in our Securities. Please read it before making an investment decision and keep it for future reference. We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information about us with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the

SEC. You may make inquiries or obtain this information free of charge by writing to Prospect Capital Corporation at 10 East 40th Street, 44th Floor, New York, NY 10016, or by calling 212-448-0702. Our Internet address is <http://www.prospectstreet.com>. Information contained on our website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus and you should not consider information contained on our website to be a part of this prospectus. You may also obtain information about us from our website and the SEC's website (<http://www.sec.gov>).

The SEC has not approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

This prospectus may not be used to consummate sales of securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

The date of this Prospectus is March 16, 2011

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we have filed with the SEC, using the shelf registration process. Under the shelf registration process, we may offer, from time to time on a delayed basis, up to \$750,000,000 of our common stock, preferred stock, debt securities or warrants representing rights to purchase shares of our common stock, preferred stock or debt securities on the terms to be determined at the time of the offering. The Securities may be offered at prices and on terms described in one or more supplements to this prospectus. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the Securities that we may offer. Each time we use this prospectus to offer Securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. Please carefully read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with any exhibits and the additional information described under the heading Available Information and the section under the heading Risk Factors before you make an investment decision.

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PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

The following summary contains basic information about this offering. It does not contain all the information that may be important to an investor. For a more complete understanding of this offering, we encourage you to read this entire document and the documents to which we have referred.

Information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, which are statements about the future that may be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as may, will, expect, intend, plans, anticipate, estimate or continue or the negative thereof or other variations thereon or comparable terminology. These forward-looking statements do not meet the safe harbor for forward-looking statements pursuant to Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act. The matters described in Risk Factors and certain other factors noted throughout this prospectus and in any exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, constitute cautionary statements identifying important factors with respect to any such forward-looking statements, including certain risks and uncertainties, that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in such forward-looking statements. The Company reminds all investors that no forward-looking statement can be relied upon as an accurate or even mostly accurate forecast because humans cannot forecast the future.

The terms we, us, our, Prospect, and Company refer to Prospect Capital Corporation; Prospect Capital Management or the Investment Adviser refers to Prospect Capital Management LLC, our investment adviser; and Prospect Administration or the Administrator refers to Prospect Administration LLC, our administrator.

The Company

We are a financial services company that lends to and invests in middle market privately-held companies.

We were originally organized under the name Prospect Street Energy Corporation and we changed our name to Prospect Energy Corporation in June 2004. We changed our name again to Prospect Capital Corporation in May 2007 and at the same time terminated our policy of investing at least 80% of our net assets in energy companies. From our inception to the fiscal year ended June 30, 2007, we invested primarily in industries related to the industrial/energy economy. Since then, we have widened our strategy to focus on other sectors of the economy and continue to broaden our portfolio holdings.

We have been organized as a closed-end investment company since April 13, 2004 and have filed an election to be treated as a business development company under the 1940 Act. We are a non-diversified company within the meaning of the 1940 Act. Our headquarters are located at 10 East 40th Street, 44th Floor, New York, NY 10016, and our telephone number is (212) 448-0702.

The Investment Adviser

Prospect Capital Management, an affiliate of the Company, manages our investment activities. Prospect Capital Management is an investment adviser that has been registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, or the Advisers Act, since March 31, 2004. Under an investment advisory and management agreement between us and Prospect Capital Management, or the Investment Advisory Agreement, we have agreed to pay Prospect Capital Management investment advisory fees, which will consist of an annual base management fee based on our gross

assets, which we define as total assets without deduction for any liabilities, as well as a two-part incentive fee based on our performance.

The Offering

We may offer, from time to time, in one or more offerings or series, together or separately, up to \$750,000,000 of our Securities, which we expect to use initially to maintain balance sheet liquidity, involving repayment of debt under our credit facility, investment in high quality short-term debt instruments or a combination thereof, and thereafter to make long-term investments in accordance with our investment objectives.

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Our Securities may be offered directly to one or more purchasers, through agents designated from time to time by us, or to or through underwriters or dealers. The prospectus supplement relating to a particular offering will disclose the terms of that offering, including the name or names of any agents or underwriters involved in the sale of our Securities by us, the purchase price, and any fee, commission or discount arrangement between us and our agents or underwriters or among our underwriters, or the basis upon which such amount may be calculated. See Plan of Distribution. We may not sell any of our Securities through agents, underwriters or dealers without delivery of a prospectus supplement describing the method and terms of the offering of our Securities.

We may sell our common stock, or warrants, options or rights to acquire our common stock, at a price below the current net asset value of our common stock upon approval of our directors, including a majority of our independent directors, in certain circumstances. At our 2010 annual meeting, held on December 10, 2010, our stockholders approved our ability to sell or otherwise issue an unlimited number of shares of our common stock at any level of discount from net asset value per share for a period of twelve months, expiring on December 10, 2011. Similarly, our stockholders approved our ability to issue warrants, options or rights to acquire our common stock at our 2008 annual meeting of stockholders for an unlimited time period and in accordance with the 1940 Act which provides that the conversion or exercise price of such warrants, options or rights may be less than net asset value per share at the date such securities are issued or at the date such securities are converted into or exercised for shares of our common stock. See Sales of Common Stock Below Net Asset Value in this prospectus and in the prospectus supplement, if applicable. Sales of common stock at prices below net asset value per share dilute the interests of existing stockholders, have the effect of reducing our net asset value per share and may reduce our market price per share. We have no current intention of engaging in a rights offering, although we reserve the right to do so in the future.

Set forth below is additional information regarding the offering of our Securities:

Use of proceeds

Unless otherwise specified in a prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds from selling Securities pursuant to this prospectus initially to maintain balance sheet liquidity, involving repayment of debt under our credit facility, investments in high quality short-term debt instruments or a combination thereof, and thereafter to make long-term investments in accordance with our investment objective. See Use of Proceeds.

Distributions

In June 2010, our Board of Directors approved a change in dividend policy from quarterly distributions to monthly distributions. Since that time, we have paid monthly distributions to the holders of our common stock and generally intend to continue to do so. The amount of the monthly distributions is determined by our Board of Directors and is based on our estimate of our investment company taxable income and net short-term capital gains. Certain amounts of the monthly distributions may from time to time be paid out of our capital rather than from earnings for the month as a result of our deliberate planning or accounting reclassifications. Distributions in excess of our current or accumulated earnings or profits constitute a return of capital and will reduce the stockholder's adjusted tax basis in such stockholder's common stock. After the adjusted basis is reduced to zero, these distributions will constitute capital gains to such stockholders. Certain additional amounts may be deemed as distributed to stockholders for income tax purposes. Other types of Securities will likely pay distributions in accordance with their terms. See Price Range of Common Stock, Distributions and Material U.S.

Federal Income Tax Considerations.

Taxation

We have qualified and elected to be treated for U.S. Federal income tax purposes as a regulated investment company, or a RIC, under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the Code. As a RIC, we generally do not have to pay corporate-level U.S. Federal income

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taxes on any ordinary income or capital gains that we distribute to our stockholders as dividends. To maintain our qualification as a RIC and obtain RIC tax treatment, we must maintain specified source-of-income and asset diversification requirements and distribute annually at least 90% of our ordinary income and realized net short-term capital gains in excess of realized net long-term capital losses, if any. See Distributions and Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations.

Dividend reinvestment plan

We have a dividend reinvestment plan for our stockholders. This is an opt out dividend reinvestment plan. As a result, when we declare a dividend, the dividends are automatically reinvested in additional shares of our common stock, unless a stockholder specifically opts out of the dividend reinvestment plan so as to receive cash dividends. Stockholders who receive distributions in the form of stock are subject to the same U.S. Federal, state and local tax consequences as stockholders who elect to receive their distributions in cash. See Dividend Reinvestment Plan.

The NASDAQ Global Select Market Symbol

PSEC

Anti-takeover provisions

Our charter and bylaws, as well as certain statutory and regulatory requirements, contain provisions that may have the effect of discouraging a third party from making an acquisition proposal for us. These anti-takeover provisions may inhibit a change in control in circumstances that could give the holders of our common stock the opportunity to realize a premium over the market price of our common stock. See Description Of Our Capital Stock.

Management arrangements

Prospect Capital Management serves as our investment adviser. Prospect Administration serves as our administrator. For a description of Prospect Capital Management, Prospect Administration and our contractual arrangements with these companies, see Business Management Services Investment Advisory Agreement, and Business Management Services Administration Agreement.

Risk factors

Investment in our Securities involves certain risks relating to our structure and investment objective that should be considered by prospective purchasers of our Securities. In addition, while we continue to broaden our portfolio, investment in our Securities involves certain risks relating to investing in the energy sector, including, but not limited to, risks associated with commodity pricing, regulation, production, demand, depletion and expiration, weather, and valuation. We are also subject to numerous investment and other risks not associated with the energy sector. We have a limited operating history upon which you can evaluate our business. In addition, as a business development company, our portfolio primarily includes securities issued by privately-held companies. These investments generally involve a high degree of business and financial risk, and are less liquid than public securities. We are required to mark the carrying value of our investments to fair value on a quarterly

basis, and economic events, market conditions and events affecting individual portfolio companies can result in quarter-to-quarter mark-downs and mark-ups of the value of individual investments that collectively can materially affect our net asset value, or NAV. Also, our determinations

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of fair value of privately-held securities may differ materially from the values that would exist if there was a ready market for these investments. A large number of entities compete for the same kind of investment opportunities as we do. Moreover, our business requires a substantial amount of capital to operate and to grow and we seek additional capital from external sources. In addition, the failure to qualify as a RIC eligible for pass-through tax treatment under the Code on income distributed to stockholders could have a materially adverse effect on the total return, if any, obtainable from an investment in our Securities. See Risk Factors and the other information included in this prospectus for a discussion of factors you should carefully consider before deciding to invest in our Securities.

Plan of distribution

We may offer, from time to time, up to \$750,000,000 of our common stock, preferred stock, debt securities or warrants representing rights to purchase shares of our common stock, preferred stock or debt securities on the terms to be determined at the time of the offering. Securities may be offered at prices and on terms described in one or more supplements to this prospectus directly to one or more purchasers, through agents designated from time to time by us, or to or through underwriters or dealers. The supplement to this prospectus relating to the offering will identify any agents or underwriters involved in the sale of our Securities, and will set forth any applicable purchase price, fee and commission or discount arrangement or the basis upon which such amount may be calculated. We may not sell Securities pursuant to this prospectus without delivering a prospectus supplement describing the method and terms of the offering of such Securities. For more information, see Plan of Distribution.

Fees and Expenses

The following tables are intended to assist you in understanding the costs and expenses that an investor in this offering will bear directly or indirectly. We caution you that some of the percentages indicated in the table below are estimates and may vary. In these tables, we assume that we have borrowed \$285 million under our credit facility, which is the maximum amount available under the credit facility. Except where the context suggests otherwise, whenever this prospectus contains a reference to fees or expenses paid by you or us or that we will pay fees or expenses, the Company will pay such fees and expenses out of our net assets and, consequently, you will indirectly bear such fees or expenses as an investor in the Company. However, you will not be required to deliver any money or otherwise bear personal liability or responsibility for such fees or expenses.

Stockholder transaction expenses:

Sales load (as a percentage of offering price)(1)	5.00%
Offering expenses borne by us (as a percentage of offering price)(2)	0.50%
Dividend reinvestment plan expenses(3)	None
Total stockholder transaction expenses (as a percentage of offering price)(4)	5.50%
Annual expenses (as a percentage of net assets attributable to common stock)(4):	
Management Fees(5)	3.35%
	2.22%

Incentive fees payable under Investment Advisory Agreement (20% of realized capital gains and 20% of pre-incentive fee net investment income)(6)	
Interest payments on the credit facility	1.34%
Interest payments on the 2010 Notes	1.04%(7)
Interest payments on the 2011 Notes	0.91%(8)
Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses	0.01%(9)
Other expenses	1.51%(10)
Total annual expenses	10.38%(6)(10)

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The following table demonstrates the projected dollar amount of cumulative expenses we would pay out of net assets and that you would indirectly bear over various periods with respect to a hypothetical investment in our common stock. In calculating the following expense amounts, we have assumed we would have borrowed all \$285 million available under our line of credit, that our annual operating expenses would remain at the levels set forth in the table above and that we would pay the costs shown in the table above.

	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
You would pay the following expenses on a \$1,000 investment, assuming a 5% annual return	\$ 123.51	\$ 255.94	\$ 382.47	\$ 674.73

While the example assumes, as required by the SEC, a 5% annual return, our performance will vary and may result in a return greater or less than 5%. The income incentive fee under our Investment Advisory Agreement with Prospect Capital Management is unlikely to be material assuming a 5% annual return and is not included in the example. If we achieve sufficient returns on our investments, including through the realization of capital gains, to trigger an incentive fee of a material amount, our distributions to our common stockholders and our expenses would likely be higher. In addition, while the example assumes reinvestment of all dividends and other distributions at NAV, participants in our dividend reinvestment plan will receive a number of shares of our common stock determined by dividing the total dollar amount of the distribution payable to a participant by the market price per share of our common stock at the close of trading on the valuation date for the distribution. See [Dividend Reinvestment Plan](#) for additional information regarding our dividend reinvestment plan.

This example and the expenses in the table above should not be considered a representation of our future expenses. Actual expenses (including the cost of debt, if any, and other expenses) may be greater or less than those shown.

- (1) In the event that the Securities to which this prospectus relates are sold to or through underwriters, a corresponding prospectus supplement will disclose the estimated applicable sales load.
- (2) The related prospectus supplement will disclose the estimated amount of offering expenses, the offering price and the estimated offering expenses borne by us as a percentage of the offering price.
- (3) The expenses of the dividend reinvestment plan are included in [other expenses](#).
- (4) The related prospectus supplement will disclose the offering price and the total stockholder transaction expenses as a percentage of the offering price.
- (5) Our base management fee is 2% of our gross assets (which include any amount borrowed, i.e., total assets without deduction for any liabilities). Although no plans are in place to borrow the full amount under our line of credit, assuming that we borrowed \$285 million, the 2% management fee of gross assets equals approximately 3.35% of net assets. See [Business Management Services Investment Advisory Agreement](#) and footnote 6 below.
- (6) Based on an annualized level of incentive fee paid during our second fiscal quarter ended December 31, 2010, all of which consisted of an income incentive fee. For a more detailed discussion of the calculation of the two-part incentive fee, see [Management Services Investment Advisory Agreement](#) in this prospectus.

- (7) On December 21, 2010, the Company issued \$150 million in aggregate principal amount of 6.25% Convertible Senior Notes due 2015, which we refer to as the 2010 Notes. See Business General and Risk Factors Risks Related to our Business for more detail on the 2010 Notes.
- (8) On February 18, 2011, the Company issued \$150 million in aggregate principal amount of 5.5% Convertible Senior Notes due 2016, which we refer to as the 2011 Notes. See Business General and Risk Factors Risks Related to our Business for more detail on the 2011 Notes. The 2011 Notes and the 2010 Notes are referred to collectively as the Notes.
- (9) The Company's stockholders indirectly bear the expenses of underlying investment companies in which the Company invests. This amount includes the fees and expenses of investment companies in which the Company is invested in as of December 31, 2010. When applicable, fees and expenses are based on historic fees and expenses for the investment companies and for those investment companies with little or no operating history,

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fees and expenses are based on expected fees and expenses stated in the investment companies prospectus or other similar communication without giving effect to any performance. Future fees and expenses for certain investment companies may be substantially higher or lower because certain fees and expenses are based on the performance of the investment companies, which may fluctuate over time. The amount of the Company's average net assets used in calculating this percentage was based on net assets of approximately \$903 million as of December 31, 2010.

- (10) Other expenses are based on estimated amounts for the current fiscal year. The amount shown above represents annualized expenses during our three months ended December 31, 2010 representing all of our estimated recurring operating expenses (except fees and expenses reported in other items of this table) that are deducted from our operating income and reflected as expenses in our Statement of Operations. The estimate of our overhead expenses, including payments under an administration agreement with Prospect Administration, or the Administration Agreement, based on our projected allocable portion of overhead and other expenses incurred by Prospect Administration in performing its obligations under the Administration Agreement. Other expenses does not include non-recurring expenses. See Business Management Services Administration Agreement.

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You should read the condensed consolidated financial information below with the Consolidated Financial Statements and notes thereto included in this offering memorandum. Financial information below for the years ended June 30, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007 and 2006 has been derived from the financial statements that were audited by our independent registered public accounting firm. The selected consolidated financial data at and for the three and six months ended December 31, 2010 and 2009 have been derived from unaudited financial data, but in the opinion of our management, reflects all adjustments (consisting only of normal recurring adjustments) that are necessary to present fairly the results for such interim periods. Interim results at and for the three and six months ended December 31, 2010 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the year ending June 30, 2011. Certain reclassifications have been made to the prior period financial information to conform to the current period presentation. See

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations starting on page 31 for more information.

For the Three Months Ended December 31,		For the Six Months Ended December 31,		For the Year Ended June 30,			
2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2008	2007
(In thousands except data relating to shares, per share and number of portfolio companies)							
\$ 27,362	\$ 18,539	\$ 56,283	\$ 33,374	\$ 86,518	\$ 62,926	\$ 59,033	\$ 30,000
3,371	4,170	5,565	10,388	15,366	22,793	12,033	6,100
2,567	9,092	6,664	9,556	12,675	14,762	8,336	4,400
33,300	31,801	68,512	53,318	114,559	100,481	79,402	40,600
2,261	1,995	4,522	3,369	(8,382)	(6,161)	(6,318)	(1,900)
9,672	7,992	19,197	14,281	(30,727)	(26,705)	(20,199)	(11,200)
2,287	2,556	4,718	4,092	(8,260)	(8,452)	(7,772)	(4,400)
14,220	12,543	28,437	21,742	(47,369)	(41,318)	(34,289)	(17,500)
19,080	19,258	40,075	31,576	67,190	59,163	45,113	23,100
12,860	(33,778)	17,445	(52,474)	(47,565)	(24,059)	(17,522)	(6,400)
\$ 31,940	\$ (14,520)	\$ 57,520	\$ (20,898)	\$ 19,625	\$ 35,104	\$ 27,591	\$ 16,700

\$	0.38	\$	(0.25)	\$	0.73	\$	(0.39)	\$	0.33	\$	1.11	\$	1.17	\$	1.
\$	0.30	\$	0.41	\$	0.60	\$	0.82	\$	(1.33)	\$	(1.62)	\$	(1.59)	\$	(1.
	84,091,152		57,613,489		79,134,173		53,709,197		59,429,222		31,559,905		23,626,642		15,724,0
\$	918,221	\$	648,135	\$	918,221	\$	648,135	\$	748,483	\$	547,168	\$	497,530	\$	328,2
	157,874		40,945		157,874		40,945		84,212		119,857		44,248		48,2
	1,076,095		689,080		1,076,095										