

financing on acceptable terms. As Alaris grows, we will also be required to hire, train, supervise and manage new employees. Failure to manage effectively any future growth or to execute on our business plans to add new Private Company Partners could have a material adverse effect on our business, reputation, financial condition and results of operations.

We are subject to risks affecting any new Private Company Partners

If Alaris is successful in partnering with one or more new Private Company Partners, the businesses of these Private Company Partners may be subject to one or more of the risks referred to under "*Risk Factors Relating to our Private Company Partners*" or similar risks and may be subject to other risks particular to such business or businesses.

We may be adversely affected by general economic and political conditions

Our business and the business of each of the Private Company Partners are subject to changes in national or North American economic conditions, including but not limited to, recessionary or inflationary trends, equity market levels, consumer credit availability, interest rates, consumers' disposable income and spending levels, job security and unemployment, and overall consumer confidence. Market events and conditions in the last 3 years, including disruptions in the international credit markets and other financial systems and the American and European Sovereign debt level resulted in a deterioration of global economic conditions. These conditions have caused a decrease in confidence in the broader U.S. and global credit and financial markets and created a climate of greater volatility, less liquidity, widening of credit spreads, a lack of price transparency, increased credit losses and tighter credit conditions. Notwithstanding various actions by governments, concerns remain about the general condition of the capital markets, financial instruments, banks, investment banks, insurers and other financial institutions have caused the broader credit market to further deteriorate and stock market to decline substantially. This volatility may in the future affect our ability to obtain equity or debt financing on acceptable terms. These factors have also negatively impacted company valuations and will impact the performance of the global economy going forward and could have a material adverse effect on our and our Private Company Partners' business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

In addition, economic conditions in North America and globally may be affected by political events throughout the world that cause disruptions in the financial markets, either directly or indirectly. In particular, conflicts, or conversely peaceful developments, arising in the Middle-East and other areas of the world that have a significant impact on the price of important commodities can have a significant impact on financial markets and global economy. Any such negative impacts could have a material adverse effect on our Company and our Private Company Partners' business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

We face competition with other investment entities

Alaris competes with a large number of private equity funds and mezzanine funds, investment banks, equity and non-equity based investment funds, and other sources of financing, including the public capital markets. Some of our competitors, particularly those operating in the United States, are substantially larger and have considerably greater financial resources and available funding structures than us. Competitors may have a lower cost of funds and many have access to funding sources and unique structures that are not available to Alaris. In addition, some of our competitors may have higher risk tolerances or different risk assessments, which could allow them to consider a wider variety of investments and establish more relationships and build their market shares. There is no assurance that the competitive pressures that we