

Ashford Inc
Form 8-K
November 17, 2014

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

**Pursuant to Section 13 OR 15(d) of The
Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Date of Report (Date of Earliest Event Reported): **November 16, 2014**

Ashford Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction

of incorporation)

001-36400
(Commission

File Number)

46-5292553
(IRS Employer

Identification No.)

14185 Dallas Parkway Suite 1100, Dallas, Texas 75254

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(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

(972) 490-9600

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

 - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Item 1.01 Entry Into a Material Definitive Agreement.

On November 16, 2014, the Board of Directors of Ashford Inc. (the Company) declared a dividend of one preferred share purchase right (a Right) payable on November 27, 2014, for each outstanding share of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the Common Shares), outstanding on November 27, 2014 (the Record Date) to the stockholders of record on that date. Each Right initially entitles the registered holder to purchase from the Company one one-thousandth of a share of Series A Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the Preferred Shares), of the Company, at a price of \$275 per one one-thousandth of a Preferred Share represented by a Right (the Purchase Price), subject to adjustment. The description and terms of the Rights are set forth in a Rights Agreement (the Rights Agreement), dated effective November 17, 2014, between the Company and Computershare Trust Company, N.A., as Rights Agent.

Distribution Date; Exercisability; Expiration

Initially, the Rights will be attached to all Common Share certificates and no separate certificates evidencing the Rights (Rights Certificates) will be issued. The Rights Agreement provides that, until the Distribution Date (as hereinafter defined) (i) the Rights will be transferred with and only with the Common Shares, (ii) new Common Share certificates issued after the Record Date or upon transfer or new issuance of Common Shares will contain a notation incorporating the Rights Agreement by reference, and (iii) the surrender for transfer of any certificates for Common Shares outstanding as of the Record Date, even without such notation or a copy of the Summary of Rights being attached thereto, will also constitute the transfer of the Rights associated with the Common Shares represented by such certificate. The Rights would separate and begin trading separately from the Common Shares, and Rights Certificates will be caused to evidence the rights on the earlier to occur of (i) 10 business days following a public announcement, or the public disclosure of facts indicating, that a person or group of affiliated or associated persons has acquired Beneficial Ownership (as defined below) of 10% or more of the outstanding Common Shares (with certain exceptions as described below, an Acquiring Person) (or, in the event an exchange is effected in accordance with Section 24 of the Rights Agreement and the board of directors determines that a later date is advisable, then such later date that is not more than 20 days after such public announcement) or (ii) 10 business days (or such later date as may be determined by action of the board of directors prior to such time as any person becomes an Acquiring Person) following the commencement of, or announcement of an intention to make, a tender offer or exchange offer the consummation of which would result in the beneficial ownership by a person or group of 10% or more of the outstanding Common Shares (the earlier of such dates, the Distribution Date). As soon as practicable after the

Distribution Date, the Company will prepare and cause the Rights Certificates to be sent to each holder of record as of the close of business on the Distribution Date.

Acquiring Person shall not include (i) the Company, (ii) any subsidiary of the Company, (iii) any employee benefit plan of the Company or of any subsidiary of the Company, (iv) any entity or trustee holding (or acting in a fiduciary capacity in respect of) Common Shares for or pursuant to the terms of any such employee benefit plan or for the purpose of funding any such plan or funding other employee benefits for employees of the Company or of any subsidiary of the Company, (v) Monty J. Bennett and his affiliates and associates (collectively, Bennett) for so long as they collectively, in the aggregate, are Beneficial Owners of, directly or indirectly, 20% or less (the Bennett Threshold) of the then outstanding Common Shares of the Company (provided that (a) Common Shares Beneficially Owned by any of (w) Archie Bennett Jr., (x) Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. (AHT) (y) Ashford Hospitality Prime, Inc. (Ashford Prime) or (z) any directors or officers of AHT, Ashford Prime or the Company and (b) Common Shares issuable or reserved for issuance to, or held in trust on behalf of or for the benefit of, Monty J. Bennett or any of his beneficiaries pursuant to any nonqualified deferred compensation plan maintained by the Company or any of its Affiliates shall, in all cases, not be aggregated with Bennett for purposes of determining whether Bennett is the Beneficial Owner of Common Shares in excess of the Bennett Threshold), and (vi) any person who or which, at the close of business on the Record Date, is a Beneficial Owner of 10% or more of the Common Shares of the Company then outstanding, other than a person who or which is not an affiliate or associate of the Beneficial Owner (as defined in the Rights Agreement) on the Record Date and who or which subsequently becomes an affiliate or associate of such Beneficial Owner without the prior written approval of the board of directors (a Grandfathered Stockholder); *provided, however*, that if a Grandfathered Stockholder becomes, after the Record Date, the Beneficial Owner of additional Common Shares (other than Common Shares acquired solely as a result of corporate action of the Company not caused, directly or indirectly, by such person) at any time such that the Grandfathered Stockholder is or thereby becomes the Beneficial Owner of 10% or more of the Common Shares then outstanding (or such other percentage as would otherwise result in such person becoming an Acquiring Person), then such Grandfathered Stockholder shall be deemed an Acquiring Person; *provided, however*, that upon the first decrease of a Grandfathered Stockholder's Beneficial Ownership below 10%, such Grandfathered Stockholder shall no longer be considered a Grandfathered Stockholder.

Beneficial Ownership shall include (i) any securities such person or any of such person's affiliates or associates beneficially owns, directly or indirectly, within the meaning of Rule 13d-3 of the General Rules and Regulations under the Exchange Act, (ii) except under limited circumstances, securities such person or any such person's affiliates or associates has the right or obligation to acquire or the right to vote pursuant to any agreement, arrangement or understanding, (iii) any securities which are beneficially owned, directly or indirectly, by any other person (or any affiliate or associate of such other person) with which such first person or any of such first person's affiliates or associates or any other person (or any affiliate or associate of such other person) with whom such first person (or any affiliates or associates of such first person) is Acting in Concert (as defined in the Rights Agreement) has any agreement, arrangement or understanding, whether or not in writing, for the purpose of acquiring, holding, voting (except pursuant to a revocable proxy as described in clause (ii) of Section 1.3.2 of the Rights Agreement) or disposing of any voting securities of the Company and (iv) any securities

which are the subject of, or the reference securities for, or that underlie, any Derivative Interest (as defined in the Rights Agreement) of such person or any of such person's affiliates or associates, with the number of Common Shares deemed Beneficially Owned being the notional or other number of Common Shares specified in the documentation evidencing the Derivative Interest as being subject to be acquired upon the exercise or settlement of the Derivative Interest or as the basis upon which the value or settlement amount of such Derivative Interest is to be calculated in whole or in part or, if no such number of Common Shares is specified in such documentation, as determined by the board of directors to be the number of Common Shares to which the Derivative Interest relates.

The Rights are not exercisable until the Distribution Date. The Rights will expire on March 15, 2015 (the Final Expiration Date), unless the Final Expiration Date is extended or unless the Rights are earlier redeemed by the Company, in each case, as described below.

As of November 14, 2014 there were 1,986,851 shares of Common Shares issued and outstanding. As long as the Rights are attached to the Common Shares, the Company will issue one Right with each new Common Share so that all such shares will have Rights attached.

Exempt Persons

The board of directors may determine that a person is exempt from the Rights Agreement (an Exempt Person); *provided* that such determination is made, and no person shall qualify as an Exempt Person unless such determination is made, prior to such time as any person becomes an Acquiring Person; *provided further* that any person will cease to be an Exempt Person if the board of directors makes a contrary determination with respect to such person.

Flip-In Event

If a person or group becomes an Acquiring Person at any time after the date of the Rights Agreement (with certain limited exceptions) the Rights will become exercisable for Common Shares (or, in certain circumstances, Preferred Shares or other similar securities of the Company) having a value equal to two times the exercise price of the Right. From and after the announcement that any person has become an Acquiring Person, if the Rights evidenced by a Right Certificate are or were at any time on or after the earlier of (i) the date of such announcement or (ii) the Distribution Date acquired or beneficially owned by an Acquiring Person or an associate or affiliate of an Acquiring Person, such Rights shall become void, and any holder of such Rights shall thereafter have no right to exercise such Rights.

Flip-Over

If, at any time after a person becomes an Acquiring Person, (i) the Company consolidates with, or merges with and into, any other person; (ii) any person consolidates with the Company, or merges with and into the Company, and the Company is the continuing or surviving corporation of such merger and, in connection with such merger, all or part of the Common Shares are or will be changed into or exchanged for stock or other securities of any other person (or the Company) or cash or any other property; or (iii) 50% or more of its consolidated assets or Earning Power (as defined in the Rights Agreement) are sold, then proper provision will be made

so that each holder of a Right will thereafter have the right to receive, upon the exercise thereof at the then current exercise price of the Right, that number of shares of common stock of the acquiring company which at the time of such transaction will have a market value of two times the exercise price of the Right.

Upon the occurrence of a flip-in or flip-over event, if the board of directors so elects, the Company shall deliver upon payment of the exercise price of a Right an amount of cash or securities equivalent in value to the Common Shares issuable upon exercise of a Right; *provided* that, if the Company fails to meet such obligation within 30 days following of the announcement that a person has become an Acquiring Person, the Company must deliver, upon exercise of a Right but without requiring payment of the exercise price then in effect, Common Shares (to the extent available) and cash equal in value to the difference between the value of the Common Shares otherwise issuable upon the exercise of a Right and the exercise price then in effect. The board of directors may extend the 30-day period described above for up to an additional 60 days to permit the taking of action that may be necessary to authorize sufficient additional Common Shares to permit the issuance of Common Shares upon the exercise in full of the Rights.

Exchange

At any time after any person becomes an Acquiring Person and prior to the acquisition by any person or group of a majority of the outstanding Common Shares, the board of directors of the Company may exchange the Rights (other than Rights owned by such person or group which have become void), in whole or in part, at an exchange ratio of one Common Share per per one one-thousandths of a Preferred Share (subject to adjustment).

Redemption

At any time prior to the time any person or group becomes an Acquiring Person, the board of directors of the Company may redeem the Rights in whole, but not in part, at a price of \$0.001 per Right (the Redemption Price). The redemption of the Rights may be made effective at such time, on such basis and with such conditions as the board of directors in its sole discretion may establish. Immediately upon any redemption of the Rights, the right to exercise the Rights will terminate and the only right of the holders of Rights will be to receive the Redemption Price.

Amendment

The terms of the Rights Agreement may be amended by the board of directors of the Company without the consent of the holders of the Rights provided that no such amendment may adversely affect the interests of the holders of Rights. Without limiting the foregoing, the Company may at any time prior to such time as any person being an Acquiring Person amend the Rights Agreement to lower the threshold at which a person or group becomes an Acquiring Person, but may not lower the threshold below 5% of the outstanding Common Shares. In addition, the board may not cause a person or group to become an Acquiring Person by lowering this threshold below the percentage interest that such person or group already owns from and after such time as any person becomes an Acquiring Person no such amendment may adversely affect the interests of the holders of the Rights (other than the Acquiring Person and its affiliates and associates).

Adjustment

The Purchase Price payable, and the number of Preferred Shares or other securities or property issuable, upon exercise of the Rights is subject to adjustment from time to time to prevent dilution (i) in the event of a stock dividend on, or a subdivision, combination or reclassification of, the Preferred Shares; (ii) upon the grant to holders of the Preferred Shares of certain rights or warrants to subscribe for or purchase Preferred Shares at a price, or securities convertible into Preferred Shares with a conversion price, less than the then current market price of the Preferred Shares; or (iii) upon the distribution to holders of the Preferred Shares of evidences of indebtedness or assets (excluding regular periodic cash dividends or dividends payable in Preferred Shares) or of subscription rights or warrants (other than those referred to above).

The number of outstanding Rights and the number of Preferred Shares issuable upon exercise of each Right are also subject to adjustment in the event of a stock split of the Common Shares or a stock dividend on the Common Shares payable in Common Shares or subdivisions, consolidations or combinations of the Common Shares occurring, in any such case, prior to the Distribution Date.

Preferred Stock

The value of the one one-thousandth of a Preferred Share purchasable upon exercise of each Right is intended to approximate the value of one Common Share. Each holder of one one-thousandth of a Preferred Share will entitle the holder thereof to the same dividends and liquidation rights as if the holder held one Common Share and will be treated the same as a Common Share in the event of a merger, consolidation or other share exchange. These rights are protected by customary antidilution provisions.

Rights of Holders

Until a Right is exercised, the holder thereof, as such, will have no rights as a stockholder of the Company, including, without limitation, the right to vote or to receive dividends.

Certain Anti-Takeover Effects

The Rights will not prevent a takeover of the Company. However, the Rights may cause substantial dilution to a person or group that acquires 10% or more of the outstanding Common Shares (in the case of Bennett, more than 20% of the outstanding Common Shares). The Rights however, should not interfere with any merger or other business combination approved by the board of directors of the Company.

Further Information

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A copy of the Rights Agreement is attached as Exhibit 4.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K and is incorporated herein by this reference. A copy of the Rights Agreement is available free of charge from the Company. This summary description of the Rights and the Rights Agreement does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Rights Agreement, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 3.03 Material Modifications to Rights of Security Holders.

The information set forth in Items 1.01 and 5.03 is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 5.03 Amendments to Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws; Change in Fiscal Year.

In connection with the adoption of the Rights Agreement, on November 17, 2014 the Company filed a Certificate of Designation of Series A Preferred Stock with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware. See the description set forth under Item 1.01 for a more complete description of the rights and preferences of the Series A Preferred Stock. A copy of the Certificate of Designation of Series A Preferred Stock is attached as Exhibit 3.3 to this Current Report on Form 8-K and is incorporated herein by this reference.

Additional Information

Certain statements and assumptions in this press release contain or are based upon forward-looking information and are being made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties. When we use the words will likely result, may, anticipate, estimate, should, expect, believe, intend, or similar expressions, we intend to identify forward-looking statements. Such statements are subject to numerous assumptions and uncertainties, many of which are outside Ashford Inc.'s control.

These forward-looking statements are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties, which could cause actual results to differ materially from those anticipated, including, without limitation: general volatility of the capital markets and the market price of our common stock; changes in our business or investment strategy; availability, terms and deployment of capital; availability of qualified personnel; changes in our industry and the market in which we operate, interest rates or the general economy; and the degree and nature of our competition. These and other risk factors are more fully discussed in Ashford Inc.'s filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The forward-looking statements included in this Form 8-K are only made as of the date of this Form 8-K. Investors should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. We are not obligated to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or circumstances, changes in expectations or otherwise.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits.

Exhibit 3.3

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Certificate of Designation of Series A Preferred Stock of Ashford Inc., as filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware on November 17, 2014.

- Exhibit 4.1 Rights Agreement, dated November 17, 2014, between Ashford Inc. and Computershare Trust Company, N.A., as Rights Agent, which includes the Form of Certificate of Designation of Series A Preferred Stock as Exhibit A, the Form of Rights Certificate as Exhibit B, and the Summary of Rights as Exhibit C.
- Exhibit 99.1 Press Release issued by Ashford Inc. dated November 17, 2014.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Ashford Inc.

Date: November 17, 2014

By:

/s/ David A. Brooks
David A. Brooks
Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel