

WINDSTREAM CORP
Form S-3ASR
February 25, 2011
Table of Contents

AS FILED WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION ON FEBRUARY 25, 2011

Registration No. 333-_____

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

Windstream Corporation

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of

20-0792300
(I.R.S. Employer

Edgar Filing: WINDSTREAM CORP - Form S-3ASR

incorporation or organization)

Identification No.)

4001 Rodney Parham Road

Little Rock, Arkansas 72212-2442

(501) 748-7000

(Address, including zip code and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

John P. Fletcher, Esq.

Executive Vice President and General Counsel

Windstream Corporation

4001 Rodney Parham Road

Little Rock, Arkansas 72212-2442

(501) 748-7000

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copy to:

David A. Neuhardt

Thompson Hine LLP

2000 Courthouse Plaza, N.E.

P.O. Box 8801

Dayton, Ohio 45401-8801

(937) 443-6775

Fax: (937) 443-6635

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale of the securities to the public: From time to time, after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

Edgar Filing: WINDSTREAM CORP - Form S-3ASR

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer
 Non-accelerated filer (do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of each class of securities to be registered	Amount registered ⁽¹⁾	Proposed maximum offering price per share ⁽²⁾	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price ⁽²⁾	Amount of registration fee
Common Stock, par value \$0.0001 per share	4,900,000	\$12.23	\$59,927,000	\$6,958

(1) In accordance with Rule 416(a) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), the Registrant is also registering hereunder an indeterminate number of shares that may be issued and resold resulting from stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions.

(2) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee in accordance with Rule 457(c) under the Securities Act based on the average of the high and low prices of the Registrant's shares of common stock as reported on the NASDAQ Global Select Market on February 24, 2011.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

WINDSTREAM CORPORATION
4,900,000 SHARES OF COMMON STOCK

We are offering to contribute 4,900,000 shares of common stock, par value of \$0.0001 per share, of Windstream Corporation to the Windstream Pension Plan to be held by the Windstream Master Trust. The shares have current aggregate appraised value, as determined by a third party valuation firm that is not affiliated with us, of approximately \$60,000,000.

We will not receive any proceeds from the contribution of shares to the Windstream Pension Plan, but the contribution will reduce our obligation to make contributions to the Plan. We will incur expenses in connection with the offering. See the **Use of Proceeds** section in this prospectus.

Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol **WIN**. The last reported sale price of our common stock on February 24, 2011 was \$12.29 per share.

*Investing in our common stock involves risks that are described in the **Risk Factors** section beginning at page 3 of this prospectus.*

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 February 25, 2011.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>PROSPECTUS SUMMARY</u>	1
<u>ABOUT WINDSTREAM CORPORATION</u>	1
<u>THE OFFERING</u>	2
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	3
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	3
<u>DESCRIPTION OF OUR COMMON STOCK</u>	3
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	5
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	5
<u>EXPERTS</u>	5
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	6

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"). This prospectus does not contain all of the information included in the registration statement. For a more complete understanding of the offering of the shares, you should refer to the registration statement, including its exhibits. A prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with the additional information described under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information" below.

We have not authorized anyone to give any information or to make any representation other than those contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement. You must not rely upon any information or representation not contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement. The information contained in this prospectus or a prospectus supplement or amendment, or incorporated herein or therein by reference, is accurate only as of the date of this prospectus or prospectus supplement or amendment, as applicable, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus or prospectus supplement or amendment, as applicable, or of any sale of the shares and you should not assume otherwise.

Unless otherwise indicated or unless the context otherwise requires, all references in this prospectus to "we," "our," "us," "the Company" or similar references refer to Windstream Corporation and its consolidated subsidiaries.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

The statements contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement include certain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Statements contained in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or incorporated by reference that are not historical facts are identified as "forward-looking statements" for the safe harbor provided by Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), and Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"). Forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements about plans to achieve future growth in business and total revenues, expected levels of support from universal service funds or other government programs, expected rates of loss of voice lines or intercarrier compensation, expected increases in high-speed Internet and business data connections, our expected ability to fund operations, capital expenditures and certain debt maturities from cash flows from operations, expected synergies and other benefits from completed acquisitions, the expected timing and amount of contributions to our pension plan, expected effective federal income tax rates and forecasted capital expenditure amounts. Forward-looking statements are subject to uncertainties that could cause actual future events and results to differ materially from those expressed in the forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are based on estimates, projections, beliefs, and assumptions that we believe are reasonable but are not guarantees of future events and results. Words such as "expects," "anticipates," "intends," "plans," "believes," "seeks," "estimates," and "should," and variations of these words and similar expressions, are intended to identify these forward-looking statements. Actual future events and our results may differ materially from those expressed in these forward-looking statements as a result of a number of important factors.

Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those contemplated in our forward-looking statements include, among others:

Table of Contents

further adverse changes in economic conditions in the markets served by us;

the extent, timing and overall effects of competition in the communications business;

the risks associated with the integration of acquired businesses or the ability to realize anticipated synergies, cost savings and growth opportunities;

continued voice line loss;

the impact of new, emerging or competing technologies;

the adoption of inter-carrier compensation and/or universal service reform proposals by the Federal Communications Commission or Congress that results in a significant loss of our revenue;

for our competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC) operations, adverse effects on the availability, quality of service and price of facilities and services provided by other incumbent local exchange carriers on which our CLEC services depend;

the availability and cost of financing in the corporate debt markets;

the potential for adverse changes in the ratings given to our debt securities by nationally accredited ratings organizations;

the effects of federal and state legislation, and rules and regulations governing the communications industry;

material changes in the communications industry that could adversely affect vendor relationships with equipment and network suppliers and customer relationships with wholesale customers;

unfavorable results of litigation;

unfavorable rulings by state public service commissions in proceedings regarding universal service funds, inter-carrier compensation or other matters that could reduce revenues or increase expenses;

the effects of work stoppages;

the impact of equipment failure, natural disasters or terrorist acts;

earnings on pension plan investments significantly below our expected long term rate of return for plan assets; and

Edgar Filing: WINDSTREAM CORP - Form S-3ASR

the factors set forth under **Risk Factors** in this prospectus and other factors described in our filings with the SEC, including under the section **Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations** in our Form 10-K for the fiscal year December 31, 2010, which is incorporated by reference herein.

We undertake no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

This summary highlights information contained elsewhere or incorporated by reference into this prospectus. Because it is a summary, it does not contain all of the information that you should consider before investing in our securities. You should read this entire prospectus carefully, including the section entitled Risk Factors, and the documents that we incorporate by reference into this prospectus, before making an investment decision.

ABOUT WINDSTREAM CORPORATION

Business Overview

We are a leading communications and technology solutions provider, specializing in complex data, high-speed Internet access, voice and transport services to customers in 29 states. We provide a variety of solutions, including IP-based voice and data services, multiprotocol label switching, networking, data center and managed services, hosting services and communications systems to businesses and government agencies. We operate an extensive local and long-haul network, including 60,000 route miles of fiber, used to deliver voice and data traffic of Windstream, as well as other carriers on a wholesale basis. We also provide high-speed Internet, voice and digital television services to residential customers primarily located in rural areas. As of December 31, 2010, we provided service to approximately 3.3 million access lines and 1.3 million high-speed Internet customers.

As of December 31, 2010, Windstream's subsidiaries provided services in 29 states. These states include Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

For the year ended December 31, 2010, we generated revenues of approximately \$3,712 million, operating income of approximately \$1,030 million and net income of approximately \$311 million.

For a further discussion of our business, we urge you to read our Form 10-K, incorporated by reference herein. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#) below.

Additional Information

Our principal executive offices are located at 4001 Rodney Parham Road, Little Rock, Arkansas 72212-2442. Our telephone number is (501) 748-7000. Our internet address is windstream.com. Information on, or accessible through, our website is not part of or incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

Table of Contents

THE OFFERING

Shares being offered:	4,900,000 shares of our common stock that we expect to contribute to the Windstream Pension Plan to be held by the Windstream Master Trust. As discussed in Plan of Distribution below, the shares have a current aggregate appraised value, on the date of contribution, as determined by a third party valuation firm, equal to approximately \$60,000,000.
Use of proceeds:	We will not receive any proceeds from our contribution of common stock to the Windstream Pension Plan, but the contribution will reduce our obligation to make contributions to the Plan in an amount equal to the aggregate appraised value of the stock we contribute, as determined by the third party valuation firm.
Risk factors:	An investment in our common stock involves risks. You should carefully review the Risk Factors section of this prospectus, as well as the other documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus.
Listing:	Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol WIN.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves risks. You should carefully consider the risks described under **Risk Factors** in Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010, and in the other documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus (which risk factors are incorporated by reference herein), as well as the other information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or in any prospectus supplement hereto before making a decision to invest in our securities. See **Where You Can Find More Information** below.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We will not receive any proceeds from the contribution of shares to the Windstream Pension Plan, but the contribution will reduce our obligation to make contributions to the Plan. We will pay all expenses of this offering, including the expense of registering and qualifying the shares that we may contribute to the Plan.

DESCRIPTION OF OUR COMMON STOCK

The following information describes our common stock and provisions of our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and our Amended and Restated Bylaws. This description is only a summary and does not purport to be complete. For information on how you can obtain those documents, see **Where You Can Find More Information** below.

General

We are authorized to issue 1,000,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$.0001 per share.

Holders of our common stock have one vote per share on matters submitted to a vote of the stockholders. Holders of our common stock will be entitled to receive dividends ratably, on a per share basis, if any, as may be declared by our Board of Directors out of legally available funds, subject to any preferential dividend rights of any outstanding preferred stock. Upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of Windstream, the holders of our common stock will be entitled to receive ratably, on a per share basis, our net assets available after the payment or provision for payment of all debts and subject to the prior rights of any outstanding preferred stock. Holders of our common stock have no preemptive rights, no cumulative voting rights and no redemption, sinking fund or conversion provisions.

To the greatest extent permitted by applicable Delaware law, our shares of common stock will be uncertificated, and transfer will be reflected by book entry.

All rights, preferences and privileges of holders of our common stock stated in this summary are subject to the rights of holders of shares of any series of preferred stock, which our Board of Directors is authorized to designate and issue in the future without further stockholder approval.

Delaware Anti-Takeover Statute

Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporate Law (the "DGCL") restricts business combinations with certain interested stockholders (defined generally under the DGCL to include a person or entity who beneficially owns or acquires 15% or more of a Delaware corporation's voting stock, or any entity or person affiliated with or controlling or controlled by such entity or person, hereinafter a "Section 203 Interested Stockholder"). Section 203, which applies to us, prohibits business combination transactions between a publicly held Delaware corporation and any Section 203 Interested Stockholder for a period of three years after the time on which the Section 203 Interested Stockholder became an interested stockholder unless: (a) prior to that time, the corporation's Board of Directors approved either the proposed business combination or the transaction which resulted in the Section 203 Interested Stockholder becoming an interested stockholder; (b) upon consummation of the transaction which resulted in the Section 203 Interested Stockholder becoming an interested stockholder, the Section 203 Interested Stockholder owned at least 85% of the voting stock of the corporation outstanding at the time the transaction commenced,

Table of Contents

excluding for purposes of determining the number of shares outstanding those shares owned (i) by persons who are directors and also officers; and (ii) 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 (c) on or subsequent to such time, the business combination is approved by the corporation's 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 Section 203 Interested Stockholder.

Certificate of Incorporation and By-laws

Provisions in our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws may have the effect of discouraging certain transactions that may result in a change in control of our company. Some of these provisions provide that stockholders do not have the power to call a special meeting, cannot act by written consent and impose advance notice requirements and procedures with respect to stockholder proposals and the nomination of candidates for election as directors. Our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation allows us to issue shares of preferred stock (see *Blank Check Preferred Stock* below) or common stock without any action by stockholders. Our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation also provides that our directors and officers are indemnified by us to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law pursuant to our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation. These provisions may make it more difficult for stockholders to take specific corporate actions and may make it more difficult or discourage an attempt to obtain control of our company by means of a proxy contest, tender offer, merger or otherwise.

Blank Check Preferred Stock

As discussed above, our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation authorizes the issuance of up to 200,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.0001 per share. Our Board of Directors has the authority, without further approval of the stockholders, to issue and determine the rights and preferences of other series of preferred stock. Our Board of Directors could issue one or more series of preferred stock with voting, conversion, dividend, liquidation or other rights that would adversely affect the voting power and ownership interest of holders of common stock. This authority may have the effect of deterring hostile takeovers, delaying or preventing a change in control and discouraging bids for our common stock at a premium over the market price.

Rights of Appraisal

Under the DGCL, our stockholders may demand appraisal of and obtain payment of the fair value of their shares in certain circumstances. This remedy may be an exclusive remedy, except where the corporate action involves fraud or illegality. The DGCL provides appraisal rights only in certain mergers or consolidations and not (unless the certificate of incorporation of a corporation so provides, which our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation does not) for a sale or transfer of all or substantially all of a corporation's assets or an amendment to its certificate of incorporation. Moreover, the DGCL does not provide appraisal rights in connection with a merger or consolidation (unless the certificate of incorporation so provides, which our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation does not) to the holders of shares of a constituent corporation listed on a national securities exchange or held of record by more than 2,000 stockholders, unless the applicable agreement of merger or consolidation requires the holders of such shares to receive, in exchange for such shares, any property other than shares of stock of the resulting or surviving corporation, shares of stock of any other corporation listed on a national securities exchange or held of record by more than 2,000 holders, cash in lieu of any fractional shares or any combination of the foregoing. In addition, the DGCL denies appraisal rights if the stockholders of the surviving corporation in a merger did not have to vote to approve the merger.

Voting on Certain Fundamental Issues

Delaware law permits a corporation to include supermajority provisions in its certificate of incorporation and bylaws with respect to the approval of various issues. However, other than the effect of Section 203 of the DGCL and voting on an amendment to certain sections of our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, no supermajority voting requirement provisions related to matters upon which our stockholders may vote are included in our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation or Bylaws.

Table of Contents

Amendment of our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation

Under Delaware law, unless a higher vote is required in the certificate of incorporation of a corporation, an amendment to such certificate of incorporation generally may be approved by a majority of the outstanding shares entitled to vote on the proposed amendment. Notwithstanding any provision of a corporation's certificate of incorporation to the contrary, under Delaware law, holders of a class of a corporation's stock are entitled to vote as a class on the approval of any amendment to the corporation's certificate of incorporation which would:

increase or decrease the aggregate number of authorized shares of such class (subject to certain exceptions);

increase or decrease the par value of the shares of such class; or

alter or change the powers, preferences or rights of such class so as to affect them adversely.

Under our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, the affirmative vote of the holders of at least two-thirds of the combined voting power of all of the then-outstanding shares of our stock eligible to be cast in the election of directors is required in order to amend, alter, change or repeal the sections of our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation related to the limitation of liability of directors, the indemnification of directors and officers, the prohibition of stockholder action by written consent, the calling of special meetings of the stockholders, the election to be covered by DGCL Section 203 and the procedures required to amend our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation.

Amendment of Bylaws

Under our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, our Board of Directors is expressly authorized to amend, alter, change or repeal our Amended and Restated Bylaws. The stockholders also have the ability to amend, alter, change or repeal our Amended and Restated Bylaws by the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares, except that a two-thirds vote is required for the stockholders to amend the sections related to bringing matters before an annual stockholder meeting, composition of the board, nominating and electing directors and filling vacancies on our Board of Directors, and the procedures required to amend our Amended and Restated Bylaws.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is Computershare Investor Services, LLC.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We expect to contribute 4,900,000 shares of our common stock to the Windstream Pension Plan to be held by the Windstream Master Trust. These shares have a current appraised value, as determined by a third party valuation firm that is not affiliated with us, of approximately \$60,000,000. We expect the contribution of the shares to be made on or before March 31, 2011. We will determine the number of shares to be contributed on the date we make the contribution. We will pay the fees of the third party valuation firm and other fees and expenses in connection with the contribution which we estimate to be approximately \$77,358, as described in more detail in the registration statement filed with the SEC.

LEGAL MATTERS

Thompson Hine LLP, Cincinnati, Ohio, has passed upon the validity of the shares of our common stock to be offered pursuant to this prospectus.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Windstream Corporation as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, and for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2010, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2010 (which is included in Management's Report on

Table of Contents

Internal Control over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010, have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We are subject to the informational requirements of the Exchange Act and we file reports and other information with the SEC. This prospectus, which forms a part of the registration statement, does not have all the information contained in the registration statement. You may read, free of charge, and copy, at the prescribed rates, any reports and other information, including the registration statement, at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the public reference room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. Copies of such material also can be obtained by mail from the Public Reference Section of the SEC, at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549, at the prescribed rates. The SEC also maintains a website that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information, including the registration statement. The website address is: <http://www.sec.gov>. Information about us, including our SEC filings, is also available at our Internet site at <http://www.windstream.com>. However, the information on, or accessible through, our Internet site is not a part of or incorporated by reference into this prospectus or any prospectus supplement.

This prospectus is part of a registration statement filed with the SEC. The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference selected documents filed with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information in the documents incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, and information in documents that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below filed with the SEC:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010, as filed with the SEC on February 22, 2011;

our Definitive Proxy Statement, as filed with the SEC on March 26, 2010 (as to those portions incorporated into our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 only);

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 7, 2011 (two reports), January 25, 2011, February 8, 2011 and February 14, 2011; and

the description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed with the SEC on December 8, 2009, including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

We also incorporate by reference additional documents that we may file with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act (other than information furnished under Items 2.02 or 7.01 of any Form 8-K, which is not deemed filed under the Exchange Act) subsequent to the date of this prospectus and prior to the termination of the offering made by this prospectus, except that any such report or portions thereof which are furnished and not filed shall not be incorporated by reference herein. Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document which also is incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus.

We will provide without charge to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom a prospectus is delivered, upon written or oral request of that person, a copy of any or all of the documents we are incorporating by reference into this prospectus, other than exhibits to those documents unless such exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference into those documents. Such written requests should be addressed to: Windstream Corporation, 4001 Rodney Parham Road, Little Rock, Arkansas 72212-2442, attention Brooke Hicks. You may direct telephone requests to Ms. Hicks at (501) 748-5030.

Table of Contents**PART II****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. Other Expenses Of Issuance And Distribution**

The following is an itemization of all fees and expenses incurred or expected to be incurred in connection with the registration and contribution to the Windstream Pension Plan of the common stock being registered. All such expenses will be paid by the registrant and all but the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration fee are estimates and remain subject to future contingencies.

SEC Registration Fee*	\$ 6,958
Legal Fees and Expenses	\$ 25,000
Accounting Fees and Expenses	\$ 25,000
Transfer Agent and Registrar Fees and Expenses	\$ 20,000
Printing and Engraving Fees	\$ 400
Miscellaneous	
Total	\$ 77,358

* Paid upon the filing of this Registration Statement with the SEC.

Item 15. Indemnification Of Directors And Officers

The following summary is qualified in its entirety by reference to the complete text of any statutes referred to below and the Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws of Windstream Corporation, a Delaware corporation (Windstream or the Company).

Section 102 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, or the DGCL, as amended, allows a corporation to eliminate the personal liability of directors of a corporation to the corporation or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except where the director breached the duty of loyalty, failed to act in good faith, engaged in intentional misconduct or knowingly violated a law, authorized the payment of a dividend or approved a stock repurchase in violation of Delaware corporate law or obtained an improper personal benefit.

Section 145 of the DGCL provides, among other things, that we may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding other than an action by or in the right of the corporation by reason of the fact that the person is or was a director, officer, agent, or employee of the corporation, or is or was serving at our request as a director, officer, agent or employee of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise against expenses, including attorneys fees, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection with such action, suit or proceeding. The power to indemnify applies (a) if such person is successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit or proceeding or (b) if such person acting in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in the best interest, or not opposed to the best interest, of the corporation, and with respect to any criminal action or proceeding had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful. The power to indemnify applies to actions brought by or in the right of the corporation as well but only to the extent of defense expenses, including attorneys fees but excluding amounts paid in settlement, actually and reasonably incurred and not to any satisfaction of judgment or settlement of the claim itself, and with the further limitation that in such actions no indemnification shall be made in the event of any adjudication of liability to the corporation, unless the court believes that in light of all the circumstances indemnification should apply.

As permitted by the DGCL, Article VIII of our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation eliminates the personal liability of our directors for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except for liability (a) for any breach of the director s duty of loyalty to our company or our stockholders, (b) for acts or omissions not in good faith or that involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (c) under Section 174 of the DGCL (regarding unlawful dividends and stock purchases) or (d) for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit. If the DGCL is amended to authorize further elimination or limiting

Table of Contents

of directors' personal liability, then our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation provides that the personal liability of directors will be eliminated or limited to the fullest extent provided under the DGCL.

As permitted by the DGCL, Article VIII of our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation provides that (a) we are required to indemnify our directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by the DGCL, subject to certain very limited exceptions, (b) we may indemnify our other employees and agents as set forth in the DGCL, (c) we are required to advance expenses, as incurred, to our directors and executive officers in connection with a legal proceeding to the fullest extent permitted by the DGCL, subject to certain conditions and (d) the rights conferred by our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws are not exclusive.

The DGCL authorizes a corporation to indemnify its directors and officers provided that the corporation shall not eliminate or limit the liability of a director as follows:

- (a) for any action brought by or in the right of a corporation where the director or officer is adjudged to be liable to the corporation, except where a court determines the director or officer is entitled to indemnity;
- (b) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve conduct that the director or officer believes is not in the best interests of the corporation;
- (c) for knowing violations of the law;
- (d) for any transaction from which the directors derived an improper personal benefit; and
- (e) for payment of dividends or approval of stock repurchases or redemptions leading to liability under Section 174 of the DGCL.

The DGCL requires a corporation to indemnify a director or officer to the extent that the director or officer has been successful, on the merits or otherwise, in defense of any action, suit or proceeding for which indemnification is lawful.

We maintain a director and officer insurance policy which insures our directors and officers against damages, judgments, settlements and costs incurred by reason of certain wrongful acts committed by such persons in their capacities as directors and officers.

Item 16. Exhibits

See the Exhibit Index which is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 17. Undertakings

The Registrant hereby undertakes:

- (a) (1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement to:
 - (i) include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;
 - (ii) reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the SEC pursuant to Rule 424(b) (§230.424(b) of this chapter) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement; and

Table of Contents

(iii) include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement.

Provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i), (a)(1)(ii) and (a) (1)(iii) above do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the SEC by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser:

(i) Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and

(ii) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5), or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii), or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

(5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchase in the initial distribution of the securities:

The undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

(i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;

(ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;

(iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant; and

Table of Contents

(iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.

(b) That, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions described in Item 15 above, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the SEC such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on a Form S-3 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Little Rock, State of Arkansas, on February 25, 2011.

WINDSTREAM CORPORATION

By: /s/ JEFFERY R. GARDNER
Jeffery R. Gardner
President and Chief Executive Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities indicated on February 25, 2011.

Signature	Title
/s/ JEFFERY R. GARDNER Jeffery R. Gardner	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)
/s/ ANTHONY W. THOMAS Anthony W. Thomas	Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer)
/s/ JOHN C. EICHLER John C. Eichler	Controller (Principal Accounting Officer)
*	Chairman, Director
Dennis E. Foster	
*	Director
Carol B. Armitage	
*	Director
Samuel E. Beall III	
*	Director
Francis X. Frantz	
*	Director
Jeffrey T. Hinson	
*	Director
Judy K. Jones	

Edgar Filing: WINDSTREAM CORP - Form S-3ASR

* Director

William A. Montgomery

* Director

Alan L. Wells

* By: /s/ JOHN FLETCHER
(John Fletcher)
Attorney-in-fact

Table of Contents

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit Number	Description
3.1	Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Windstream Corporation (incorporated herein by reference to Annex E to Amendment No. 3 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-4, filed with the Commission on May 23, 2006).
3.2	Amended and Restated Bylaws of Windstream Corporation (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated February 19, 2010).
5.1	Opinion of Thompson Hine LLP regarding the legality of the shares of common stock offered by this Registration Statement.*
23.1	Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.*
23.2	Consent of Thompson Hine LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1).*
24	Powers of Attorney of directors and certain officers of the Registrant.*

* Filed herewith.