

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2)
Registration Statement No. 333-198735



The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.

\$2,960,000

Callable CMS Spread and Russell 2000® Index-Linked Range
Accrual Notes due 2030

Interest, if any, will be paid quarterly on the the last calendar day of each February and the 30th calendar day of each May, August and November, beginning February 29, 2016. On each of the first four quarterly interest payment dates, interest will be paid at a rate of 10.00% per annum. We may redeem your notes at 100% of their face amount plus any accrued and unpaid interest on any quarterly interest payment date on or after November 30, 2016.

Subject to our redemption right, on each interest payment date beginning in February 2017, interest, if any, will be paid based on (i) the number of scheduled trading days in the relevant interest period (reference dates) on which the closing level of the Russell 2000® Index is *greater than or equal to* 60.00% of the initial index level of 1,188.814, which is 713.2884, and (ii) the applicable interest factor (described below). Interest related to an interest payment date will be determined on the tenth scheduled trading day prior to such interest payment date and the interest period related to such interest payment date will be the approximately 3-month period prior to such tenth scheduled trading day.

The interest factor for an interest period is the *product* of (i) 8.0 *times* (ii) the CMS spread on the second U.S. Government securities business day preceding the interest payment date occurring during such interest period, subject to a maximum interest factor of 10.00% and a minimum interest factor of 0%. The CMS Spread is the *difference* between the 30-year CMS rate *minus* the 2-year CMS rate.

To determine your annualized interest rate for each interest payment date beginning in February 2017, we will (i) *divide* the number of reference dates in such interest period on which the closing level of the Russell 2000® Index is *greater than or equal to* 60.00% of the initial index level by the total number of reference days in such interest period and (ii) *multiply* the resulting fraction by the applicable interest factor. Your quarterly interest payment, if any, will be determined in accordance with the 30/360 (ISDA) day count convention. **Beginning with the interest payment date in February 2017, you will not receive any interest on your notes on an interest payment date if either (i) the CMS spread used to calculate the related interest factor is *less than or equal to* zero or (ii) during the related interest period the closing level of the index is never *greater than or equal to* 60.00% of the initial index level.**

If we do not redeem your notes, the amount that you will be paid on your notes at maturity (November 30, 2030), in addition to any interest, is based on the index return, which is the percentage increase or decrease in the final index level from the initial index level as measured from the trade date (November 24, 2015) to and including the determination date (November 15, 2030). At maturity, for each \$1,000 face amount of your notes, you will receive an amount in cash equal to:

- if the index return is *greater than or equal to* -50.00% (the final index level is *greater than or equal to* 50.00% of the initial index level), \$1,000; or
- if the index return is *less than* -50.00% (the final index level is *less than* 50.00% of the initial index level), the *sum* of (i) \$1,000 *plus* (ii) the *product* of (a) the index return *times* (b) \$1,000.

You will not benefit from any increase in the final index level above the initial index level and you will receive less than the face amount of your notes at maturity if the final index level is less than 50.00% of the initial index level.

You should read the additional disclosure herein so that you may better understand the terms and risks of your investment, including, among other things, our credit risk. See page S-10.

The estimated value of your notes at the time the terms of your notes are set on the trade date is equal to approximately \$896 per \$1,000 face amount. For a discussion of the estimated value and the price at which Goldman, Sachs & Co. would initially buy or sell your notes, if it makes a market in the notes, see the following page.

Original issue date: November 30, 2015

Original issue price:

100.00% of the face amount

Underwriting discount: 4.55% of the face amount

Net proceeds to the issuer:

95.45% of the face amount

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense. The notes are not bank deposits and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance

Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Prospectus Supplement No. 4250 dated November 24, 2015.

[Table of Contents](#)

On November 2, 2015, Standard and Poor's Ratings Services (S&P) announced that it had placed the senior unsecured debt ratings of the non-operating holding companies of the U.S. global systemically important banks (GSIBs) under review as it reviews the resolution regime for U.S. banks. These holding companies, which include The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., are under review for a credit ratings downgrade by S&P.

The issue price, underwriting discount and net proceeds listed on the cover page hereof relate to the notes we sell initially. We may decide to sell additional notes after the date of this prospectus supplement, at issue prices and with underwriting discounts and net proceeds that differ from the amounts set forth above. The return (whether positive or negative) on your investment in notes will depend in part on the issue price you pay for such notes.

Goldman Sachs may use this prospectus in the initial sale of the offered notes. In addition, Goldman Sachs & Co., or any other affiliate of Goldman Sachs may use this prospectus in a market-making transaction in a note after its initial sale. ***Unless Goldman Sachs or its agent informs the purchaser otherwise in the confirmation of sale, this prospectus is being used in a market-making transaction.***

Estimated Value of Your Notes

The estimated value of your notes at the time the terms of your notes are set on the trade date (as determined by reference to pricing models used by Goldman, Sachs & Co. (GS&Co.) and taking into account our credit spreads) is equal to approximately \$896 per \$1,000 face amount, which will be less than the original issue price. The value of your notes at any time will reflect many factors and cannot be predicted; however, the price (not including GS&Co.'s customary bid and ask spreads) at which GS&Co. would initially buy or sell notes (if it makes a market, which it is not obligated to do) and the value that GS&Co. will initially use for account statements and otherwise will equal approximately \$960 per \$1,000 face amount, which will exceed the estimated value of your notes as determined by reference to these models. The amount of the excess will decline on a straight line basis over the period from the trade date through November 30, 2016.

About Your Prospectus

The notes are part of the Medium-Term Notes, Series D program of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. This prospectus includes this prospectus supplement and the accompanying documents listed below. This prospectus supplement constitutes a supplement to the documents listed below and should be read in conjunction with such documents:

- [Prospectus supplement dated September 15, 2014](#)
- [Prospectus dated September 15, 2014](#)

The information in this prospectus supplement supersedes any conflicting information in the documents listed above. In addition, some of the terms or features described in the listed documents may not apply to your notes.

[Table of Contents](#)

Callable CMS Spread and Russell 2000® Index-Linked Range Accrual Notes due 2030

INVESTMENT THESIS

For investors who:

- want to receive, for the first four interest payment dates, interest at a rate of 10.00% per annum (a higher annualized rate than on a comparable fixed or floating rate debt security) and, thereafter, want the opportunity to receive interest at a rate of up to 10.00% per annum and thus believe that (i) on any reference date, the closing level of the index will not be less than 60.00% of the initial index level and (ii) on any interest factor determination date, the 30-year CMS rate will be greater than the 2-year CMS rate.
- are willing to receive no interest after the first four interest payment dates if the closing level of the index on each reference date is less than 60.00% of the initial index level or the 30-year CMS rate is equal to or less than the 2-year CMS rate on each interest factor determination date.
- are willing to bear a loss if the final index level on the determination date declines by more than 50.00% relative to the initial index level.
- understand that, due to the issuer's early redemption right, the term of the notes could be anywhere from one year to fifteen years.

DETERMINING PAYMENTS ON THE NOTES

For the first four interest payment dates, the interest rate on the notes will be 10.00% per annum. Thereafter, the amount of interest to be paid for each \$1,000 face amount of notes on any quarterly interest payment date will be determined on the immediately preceding interest determination date based on the closing level of the index on each reference date during the interest period immediately preceding such interest payment date and on the CMS spread on the applicable interest factor determination date, as follows:

$$\$1,000 \times \text{Interest Factor} \times \left[\frac{\text{number of reference dates on which the closing level of the index} \geq \text{index barrier level}}{\text{total number of reference dates in the interest period}} \right] \times 30/360(\text{ISDA})$$

Interest factor: determined based on the CMS spread on the applicable interest factor determination date and will equal:

- if the CMS spread times 8.0 is greater than or equal to 10.00%, 10.00%;
- if the CMS spread times 8.0 is less than 10.00% but greater than zero, the CMS spread times 8.0; or
- if the CMS spread times 8.0 is less than or equal to zero, 0.00%.

Accrual criteria for a reference date: index closes at or above the index barrier level.

Subject to the issuer's early redemption right, at maturity, excluding any interest payment, for each \$1,000 face amount the investor will receive:

- if the final index level is greater than or equal to the trigger buffer level, 100% of the face amount; or
- if the final index level is less than the trigger buffer level, the sum of (i) 100% of the face amount plus (ii) the product of the index return times the face amount.

If the final index level declines by more than the trigger buffer level, the return on the notes will be negative and the investor could lose their entire investment in the notes.

DETAILS OF THE ISSUER'S EARLY REDEMPTION RIGHT


- The issuer may redeem the notes at 100% of their face amount, plus any accrued and unpaid interest, on any quarterly interest payment date on or after November 30, 2016.
- While the issuer may choose to call the notes on any quarterly interest payment date on or after November 30, 2016, it is more likely to call the notes if:
 - the index level stays above the index barrier level and the CMS spread is positive;
 - interest rates decline or do not increase; or
 - the issuer's credit spread decreases.

KEY TERMS

Issuer:	The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.
Index:	The Russell 2000® Index (Bloomberg symbol, "RTY Index")
CMS Spread:	For any interest factor determination date, the difference of the 30-year CMS rate minus the 2-year CMS rate. See "The CMS Spread" below.
Face Amount:	\$2,960,000 in the aggregate; each note will have a face amount equal to \$1,000
Trade Date:	November 24, 2015
Settlement Date:	November 30, 2015
Determination Date:	November 15, 2030
Stated Maturity Date:	November 30, 2030
Early Redemption Right:	We have the right to redeem your notes, in whole but not in part, on each redemption date at a price equal to 100% of the face amount plus accrued and unpaid interest to but excluding such redemption date, subject to ten business days' prior notice.
Reference Dates:	For each interest period, each day that is a scheduled trading day
Interest Factor Determination Date:	For each interest period, the second U.S. Government securities business day preceding the interest payment date occurring during such interest period.
U.S. Government Securities Business Day:	Any day except for a Saturday, Sunday or a day on which the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association recommends that the fixed income department of its members be closed for the entire day for purposes of trading in U.S. government securities
Interest Determination Dates:	With respect to the 5th interest payment date and each interest payment date thereafter, the tenth scheduled trading day prior to each interest payment date
Interest Payment Dates:	The last calendar day of each February and the 30th calendar day of each May, August and November, beginning on February 29, 2016 and ending on the stated maturity date
Interest Period:	The period from and including an interest determination date to but excluding the next succeeding interest determination date, with the exception of the interest period related to the 5th interest payment date, which shall begin on the tenth scheduled trading day prior to the 4th interest payment date.
Initial Index Level:	1,188.814
Final Index Level:	The closing level of the index on the determination date
Index Barrier Level:	713.2884, which is 60.00% of the initial index level
Trigger Buffer Level:	594.407, which is 50.00% of the initial index level
Index Return:	The quotient of (i) the final index level minus the initial index level divided by (ii) the initial index level, expressed as a percentage.
Day Count Convention:	30/360 (ISDA)
Business Day Convention:	Following unadjusted
Accrued Interest Factor:	Calculated in accordance with the day count convention with respect to each period from and including each interest payment date (or the original issue date, in the case of the first interest payment) to but excluding the next succeeding interest payment date
CUSIP/ISIN:	38148THY8 /US38148THY82

HYPOTHETICAL INTEREST PAYMENTS

The following illustrations are based on a range of levels of the index and the CMS rates that are entirely hypothetical. They should not be taken as an indication or prediction of future investment results and are intended merely to illustrate the impact that the various hypothetical levels of the index or the CMS rates on any reference date, interest factor determination date or the determination date, as applicable, could have on the amount you receive on any interest payment date after the first four interest payment dates or at maturity, as applicable.

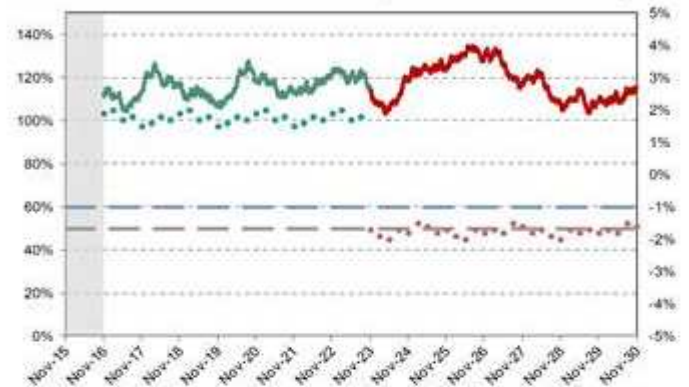
Non-call Period		Interest Accruing	No Interest Accruing	Index Barrier Level	Trigger Buffer Level
Left Side Axis			Right Side Axis		
Index ():		Russell 2000® Index on each reference date	CMS Spread (● ● ●):		The difference of the 30-year CMS rate minus the 2-year CMS rate on each quarterly interest factor determination date

Index Level Increases and the CMS Spread is Positive



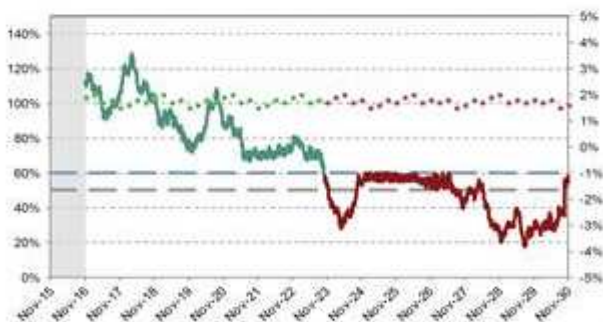
- **Interest Payments:** Interest will accrue at a rate per annum equivalent to the applicable interest factor, which reflects the product of the applicable CMS spread times 8.0, subject to a maximum of 10.00%.
- **Call Feature:** The issuer is more likely to call the notes during the life of the notes.
- **Payment at Maturity:** Since the final index level is greater than the trigger buffer level, you will receive 100% of the face amount at maturity.

Index Level Increases and the CMS Spread is Positive and Negative



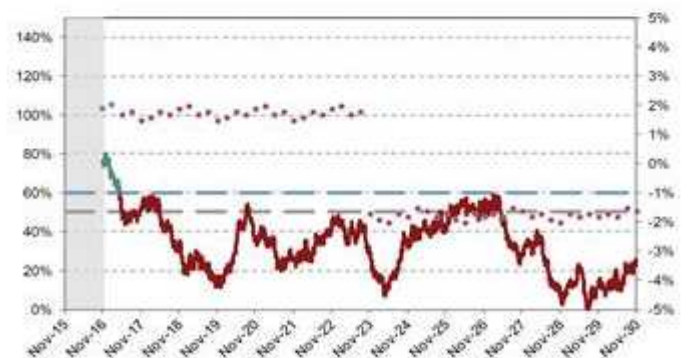
- **Interest Payments:** The interest rate with respect to an interest payment date will be based on the applicable interest factor, which reflects the product of the applicable CMS spread times 8.0 (subject to a maximum of 10.00% and a minimum of 0.00%). The interest factor will only be positive if the 30-year CMS rate is *greater than* the 2-year CMS rate on the applicable interest factor determination date. In addition, interest with respect to an interest payment date will only accrue on each reference date during the immediately preceding interest period that the closing level of the index is *greater than or equal to* the index barrier level.
- **Call Feature:** The issuer may or may not call the notes during the life of the notes.
- **Payment at Maturity:** Since the final index level is *greater than* the trigger buffer level, you will receive 100% of the face amount at maturity.

Index Level Increases and Decreases and the CMS Spread is Positive



- **Interest Payments:** The interest rate with respect to an interest payment date will be based on the applicable interest factor, which reflects the product of the applicable CMS spread times 8.0 (subject to a maximum of 10.00% and a minimum of 0.00%). The interest factor will only be positive if the 30-year CMS rate is *greater than* the 2-year CMS rate on the applicable interest factor determination date. In addition, interest with respect to an interest payment date will only accrue on each reference date during the immediately preceding interest period that the closing level of the index is *greater than or equal to* the index barrier level.
- **Call Feature:** The issuer may or may not call the notes during the life of the notes.
- **Payment at Maturity:** Since the final index level is *greater than* the trigger buffer level, you will receive 100% of the face amount at maturity.

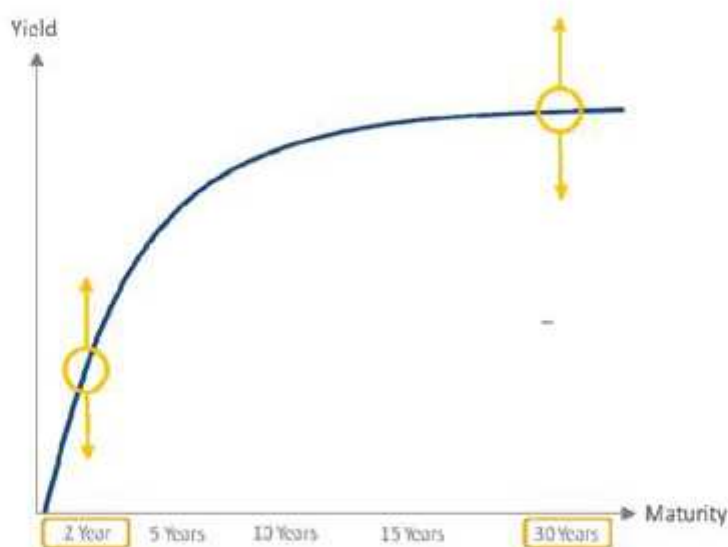
Index Level Decreases and the CMS Spread is Positive and Negative, and the Final Index Level is Below the Trigger Buffer Level



- **Interest Payments:** The quarterly interest payments are mostly zero.
- **Call Feature:** While the issuer may choose to call the notes, the issuer is very likely not to call the notes during the life of the notes.
- **Payment at Maturity:** Since the final index level is below the trigger buffer level, you will lose a significant portion of your investment.

THE CMS SPREAD

The CMS spread is equal to the *difference* of the 30-year CMS rate *minus* the 2-year CMS rate and is based on the shape of the CMS yield curve. When we refer to the 30-year CMS rate or the 2-year CMS rate on an interest factor determination date, we mean the 30-year or 2-year U.S. dollar interest rate swap rate, respectively, on such interest factor determination date. As set forth in the graph below, as the CMS yield curve flattens the spread gets smaller and smaller.



By purchasing the notes, you are taking the position that the CMS yield curve will be positively sloped as shown above. A steeper curve will translate into a higher interest factor, although the interest factor for any interest period will never exceed 10.00%.

RISKS

Please read the section entitled "Additional Risk Factors Specific to Your Notes" of this prospectus supplement as well as the risks and considerations described in the accompanying prospectus dated September 15, 2014 and in the accompanying prospectus supplement dated September 15, 2014

[Table of Contents](#)

SUMMARY INFORMATION

We refer to the notes we are offering by this prospectus supplement as the "offered notes" or the "notes". Each of the offered notes, including your notes, has the terms described below and under "Specific Terms of Your Notes" on page S-20. Please note that in this prospectus supplement, references to "The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.", "we", "our" and "us" mean only The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and do not include its consolidated subsidiaries. Also, references to the "accompanying prospectus" mean the accompanying prospectus, dated September 15, 2014, as supplemented by the accompanying prospectus supplement, dated September 15, 2014, in each case relating to the Medium-Term Notes, Series D of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. References to the "indenture" in this prospectus supplement mean the senior debt indenture, dated July 16, 2008, between The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and The Bank of New York Mellon, as trustee.

Key Terms

Issuer: The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.

Index: the Russell 2000® Index (Bloomberg symbol, "RTY Index"), as published by the Russell Investment Group ("Russell"); see "The Index" on page S-30

CMS spread: for any interest factor determination date, the *difference* of the 30-year CMS rate *minus* the 2-year CMS rate

30-year CMS rate: for any interest factor determination date, the 30-year U.S. dollar interest rate swap rate (as described on page S-23) on such day, subject to adjustment as described elsewhere in this prospectus supplement

2-year CMS rate: for any interest factor determination date, the 2-year U.S. dollar interest rate swap rate (as described on page S-23) on such day, subject to adjustment as described elsewhere in this prospectus supplement

CMS rates: the 30-year CMS rate and the 2-year CMS rate

Face amount: each note will have a face amount equal to \$1,000; \$2,960,000 in the aggregate for all the offered notes; the aggregate face amount of the offered notes may be increased if the issuer, at its sole option, decides to sell an additional amount of the offered notes on a date subsequent to the date of this prospectus supplement

Purchase at amount other than face amount: the amount we will pay you at the stated maturity date for your notes or upon any early redemption, if any, will not be adjusted based on the issue price you pay for your notes, so if you acquire notes at a premium (or discount) to face amount and hold them to the stated maturity date or date of early redemption, it could affect your investment in a number of ways. The return on your investment in such notes will be lower (or higher) than it would have been had you purchased the notes at face amount. Also, the stated trigger buffer level would not offer the same measure of protection to your investment as would be the case if you had purchased the notes at face amount. See “Additional Risk Factors Specific to Your Notes — If You Purchase Your Notes at a Premium to Face Amount, the Return on Your Investment Will Be Lower Than the Return on Notes Purchased at Face Amount and the Impact of Certain Key Terms of the Notes Will be Negatively Affected” on page S-12 of this pricing supplement.

Trade date: November 24, 2015

Original issue date (settlement date): November 30, 2015

Stated maturity date: November 30, 2030, subject to our early redemption right and to adjustment as described under “Specific Terms of Your Notes — Payment of Principal on Stated Maturity Date — Stated Maturity Date” on page S-22

Specified currency: U.S. dollars (“\$”)

Denominations: \$1,000 or integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof

S-2

[Table of Contents](#)

Supplemental discussion of U.S. federal income tax consequences: you will be obligated pursuant to the terms of the notes — in the absence of a change in law, an administrative determination or a judicial ruling to the contrary — to characterize each note for all tax purposes as an income-bearing pre-paid derivative contract in respect of the index, as described under “Supplemental Discussion of Federal Income Tax Consequences” herein. Pursuant to this approach, it is the opinion of Sidley Austin LLP that it is likely that any interest payment will be taxed as ordinary income in accordance with your regular method of accounting for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If you are a United States alien holder of the notes, we intend to withhold on interest payments made to you at a 30% rate or at a lower rate specified by an applicable income tax treaty. In addition, upon the sale, exchange, redemption or maturity of your notes, it would be reasonable for you to recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference, if any, between the amount of cash you receive at such time (excluding amounts attributable to any interest payment) and your tax basis in your notes.

Early redemption right: we have the right to redeem your notes, in whole but not in part, on each redemption date at a price equal to 100% of the face amount *plus* accrued and unpaid interest to but excluding such redemption date, subject to ten business days’ prior notice.

Redemption date: the interest payment date that is expected to fall on November 30, 2016 and each interest payment date occurring thereafter.

Cash settlement amount (on the stated maturity date): subject to our early redemption right, for each \$1,000 face amount of your notes, in addition to any accrued and unpaid interest, we will pay you on the stated maturity date an amount in cash equal to:

- if the final index level is *greater than* or *equal to* the trigger buffer level, \$1,000; or
- if the final index level is *less than* the trigger buffer level, the *sum* of (1) \$1,000 *plus* (2) the *product* of (i) \$1,000 *times* (ii) the index return

Trigger buffer level: 594.407, which is 50.00% of the initial index level

Interest rate: for the first four interest payment dates, the interest rate will be 10.00% per annum. Thereafter, the interest rate with respect to any interest payment date will be determined on the immediately preceding interest determination date, based on the closing level of the index on each reference date during the interest period immediately preceding such interest payment date and on the CMS spread on the applicable interest factor determination date. The interest rate will be equal to: the *product* of (1) the interest factor *times* (2) the quotient of (i) the number of reference dates during the applicable interest period when the closing level of the index is *greater than or equal to* the index barrier level *divided by* (ii) the number of reference dates in such interest period. The interest rate will not be greater than 10.00% per annum or less than 0.00% per annum.

Interest factor: the interest factor for an interest period will be determined based on the CMS spread on the applicable interest factor determination date and will be equal to:

- if the CMS spread *times* 8.0 is *greater than or equal to* 10.00%, 10.00%;
- if the CMS spread *times* 8.0 is less than 10.00% but greater than zero, the CMS spread *times* 8.0; or
- if the CMS spread *times* 8.0 is less than or equal to zero, 0.00%

Interest factor determination dates: for each interest period, the second U.S. Government securities business day preceding the interest payment date occurring during such interest period. For example, the interest factor determination date used to determine the interest factor for interest to be paid on the 6th interest payment date shall be the second U.S. Government securities business day preceding the 5th interest payment date.

Interest determination dates: with respect to the 5th interest payment date and each interest payment date thereafter, the tenth scheduled trading day prior to the applicable interest payment date, and the interest determination date will begin the interest period for which payment will be made on the interest payment date occurring approximately three months thereafter. For example, the quarterly interest period applicable to the 6th interest payment date shall begin on the interest determination date that is the tenth scheduled trading day immediately preceding the 5th interest payment date and the interest rate to be

S-3

[Table of Contents](#)

paid on the 6th interest payment date shall be determined on the interest determination date that is the tenth scheduled business day prior to the 6th interest payment date.

Index barrier level: 713.2884, which is 60.00% of the initial index level

Initial index level: 1,188.814

Final index level: the closing level of the index on the determination date, except in the limited circumstances described under “Specific Terms of Your Notes — Consequences of a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day” on page S-22 and subject to adjustment as provided under “Specific Terms of Your Notes — Discontinuance or Modification of an Index” on page S-24

Index return: the *quotient* of (1) the final index level *minus* the initial index level *divided by* (2) the initial index level, expressed as a percentage

Determination date: November 15, 2030, subject to adjustment as described under “Specific Terms of Your Notes — Determination Date” on page S-21

Closing level of the index: the closing level of the index, as further described under “Specific Terms of Your Notes — Special Calculation Provisions — Closing Level” on page S-26

Interest payment dates: the the last calendar day of each February and the 30th calendar day of each May, August and November, beginning on February 29, 2016 and ending on the stated maturity date, subject to adjustments as described elsewhere in the prospectus supplement

Reference date: for each interest period, each day that is a scheduled trading day

Day count convention: 30/360 (ISDA)

Business day convention: following unadjusted

Accrued interest factor: calculated in accordance with the day count convention with respect to each period from and including each interest payment date (or the original issue date, in the case of the first interest payment) to but excluding the next succeeding interest payment date

Regular record dates: one business day immediately preceding each interest payment date

Defeasance: not applicable

No listing: the offered notes will not be listed or displayed on any securities exchange or interdealer market quotation system

Business day: as described on page S-26

U.S. Government securities business day: any day except for a Saturday, Sunday or a day on which the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association recommends that the fixed income department of its members be closed for the entire day for purposes of trading in U.S. government securities

Trading day: as described on page S-26

Scheduled trading day: as described on page S-26

Interest period: the period from and including an interest determination date to but excluding the next succeeding interest determination date, with the exception of the interest period related to the 5th interest payment date, which shall begin on the tenth scheduled trading day prior to the 4th interest payment date. Interest periods are not relevant in determining the interest to be paid on the first four interest payment dates.

Calculation agent: Goldman, Sachs & Co. ("GS&Co.")

CUSIP no.: 38148THY8

ISIN no.: US38148THY82

FDIC: the notes are not bank deposits and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency, nor are they obligations of, or guaranteed by, a bank

S-4

[Table of Contents](#)

HYPOTHETICAL EXAMPLES

The following examples are provided for purposes of illustration only. They should not be taken as an indication or prediction of future investment results and are intended merely to illustrate (i) the method we will use to determine the interest rate on any given interest payment date after the first four interest payment dates, which is based on the levels of the CMS rates on the applicable interest factor determination date and the closing level of the index on the reference dates in the interest period immediately preceding the interest payment date, (ii) the method we will use to calculate the amount of interest accrued between interest payment dates and (iii) the impact that the various hypothetical closing levels of the index on the determination date could have on the cash settlement amount at maturity assuming all other variables remain constant.

The examples below are based on a range of levels of the index and the CMS rates that are entirely hypothetical; no one can predict what the levels of the index or the CMS rates will be on any day throughout the life of your notes, what the final index level will be on the determination date and what the interest rate will be on any interest payment date after the first four interest payment dates. The index and the CMS rates have been highly volatile in the past — meaning that the index level and the CMS rates have changed substantially in relatively short periods — and their performance cannot be predicted for any future period.

The information in the following examples reflects the method we will use to calculate the interest rate applicable to any interest payment date and the hypothetical rates of return on the offered notes assuming that they are purchased on the original issue date at the face amount and held to the stated maturity date. If you sell your notes in a secondary market prior to the stated maturity date, as the case may be, your return will depend upon the market value of your notes at the time of sale, which may be affected by a number of factors that are not reflected in the tables below such as interest rates, the volatility of the index and the CMS rates and our creditworthiness. In addition, the estimated value of your notes at the time the terms of your notes are set on the trade date (as determined by reference to pricing models used by GS&Co.) is less than the original issue price of your notes. For more information on the estimated value of your notes, see "Additional Risk Factors Specific to Your Notes — The Estimated Value of Your Notes At the Time the Terms of Your Notes Are Set On the Trade Date (as Determined By Reference to Pricing Models Used By GS&Co.) Is Less Than the Original Issue Price Of Your Notes" on page S-10 of this prospectus supplement. The information in the tables also reflect the key terms and assumptions in the box below.

Key Terms and Assumptions

Face amount

\$1,000

Index barrier level

60.00% of the initial index level

Trigger buffer level

50.00% of the initial index level

The day count convention calculation results in an accrued interest factor of 0.25

The notes are not called

Neither a market disruption event nor a non-trading day occurs on any reference date or the originally scheduled determination date

No change in or affecting any of the index stocks or the method by which the index sponsor calculates the index

Notes purchased on original issue date at the face amount and held to the stated maturity date

For these reasons, the actual performance of the index over the life of your notes, the actual levels of the index on any reference date in any interest period, the actual levels of the CMS rates on any interest factor determination date, as well as the interest payable at each interest payment date after the first four interest payment dates, may bear little relation to the hypothetical examples shown below or to

S-5

[Table of Contents](#)

the historical levels of the index and the CMS spreads shown elsewhere in this prospectus supplement. For information about the index levels and CMS spread during recent periods, see “The Index — Historical Closing Levels of the Index” on page S-36 and “Historical CMS Spreads” on page S-38. Before investing in the notes, you should consult publicly available information to determine the index level and the CMS spread between the date of this prospectus supplement and the date of your purchase of the notes.

The examples and tables below illustrate the method we will use to determine the interest factor on any interest factor determination date and the method used to calculate the interest rate with respect to an interest payment date based on such interest factor, subject to the key terms and assumptions above.

The interest factor applicable to any interest period is determined on the applicable interest factor determination date and will equal the CMS spread *times* 8.0, subject to a maximum interest factor of 10.00%, and will be *no less than* zero. These examples are based on a range of CMS spreads that are entirely hypothetical.

In calculating the interest rate for a given interest payment date using the hypothetical interest factor in each example, the numbers in the first column of each table below represent the number of reference dates (“N”) during any given interest period for which the closing level of the index is greater than or equal to the index barrier level. The levels in the fourth column represent the hypothetical interest amount, as a percentage of the face amount of each note, that would be payable with respect to a given interest period in which the closing level of the index is greater than or equal to the index barrier level for a given number of reference dates (as specified in the first column) assuming the hypothetical interest factor in such example.

Also, the hypothetical examples shown below do not take into account the effect of applicable taxes.

Example 1: Based on a hypothetical 30-year CMS rate of 7.00% and a hypothetical 2-year CMS rate of 6.50% on the relevant interest factor determination date, the hypothetical interest factor for the relevant interest period equals:

$$(7.00\% - 6.50\%) \times 8.0 = 4.00\%$$

Because 0.50% *times* 8.0 equals 4.00%, which is less than 10.00% and greater than 0.00%, the hypothetical interest factor for the relevant interest period shall be 4.00%.

Based on a hypothetical interest factor of 4.00%, the hypothetical interest rate with respect to the relevant interest payment date and the hypothetical interest amount, as a percentage of the face amount of each note, that would be payable with respect to

the relevant interest period in which the closing level of the index is greater than or equal to the index barrier level for the indicated number of reference dates are set forth below:

N* (A)	Assumed number of eligible trading days in an interest period (B)	Fraction (A/B) x Hypothetical Interest Factor of 4.00%	Amount of interest to be paid on the related interest payment date (using 30/360 (ISDA) convention)
0	60	0.00000000	0.00%
15	60	0.01000000	0.25%
30	60	0.02000000	0.50%
45	60	0.03000000	0.75%
60	60	0.04000000	1.00%

**The number of days for which the closing level of the index is greater than or equal to the index barrier level in a given interest period is subject to numerous adjustments, as described elsewhere in this prospectus supplement.*

Example 2: Based on a hypothetical 30-year CMS rate of 2.45% and a hypothetical 2-year CMS rate of 2.20% on the relevant interest factor determination date, the hypothetical interest factor for the relevant interest period equals:

$$(2.45\% - 2.20\%) \times 8.0 = 2.00\%$$

S-6

[Table of Contents](#)

Because 0.25% *times* 8.0 equals 2.00%, which is less than 10.00% and greater than 0.00%, the hypothetical interest factor for the relevant interest period shall be 2.00%.

Based on a hypothetical interest factor of 2.00%, the hypothetical interest rate with respect to the relevant interest payment date and the hypothetical interest amount, as a percentage of the face amount of each note, that would be payable with respect to the relevant interest period in which the closing level of the index is greater than or equal to the index barrier level for the indicated number of reference dates are set forth below:

N* (A)	Assumed number of eligible trading days in an interest period (B)	Fraction (A/B) x Hypothetical Interest Factor of 2.00%	Amount of interest to be paid on the related interest payment date (using 30/360 (ISDA) convention)
0	60	0.00000000	0.00%
15	60	0.00500000	0.13%
30	60	0.01000000	0.25%
45	60	0.01500000	0.38%
60	60	0.02000000	0.50%

**The number of days for which the closing level of the index is greater than or equal to the index barrier level in a given interest period is subject to numerous adjustments, as described elsewhere in this prospectus supplement.*

Example 3: Based on a hypothetical 30-year CMS rate of 9.00% and a hypothetical 2-year CMS rate of 3.00% on the relevant interest factor determination date, the hypothetical interest factor for the relevant interest period equals:

$$(9.00\% - 3.00\%) \times 8.0 = 48.00\%$$

Because 6.00% *times* 8.0 equals 48.00%, which is greater than 10.00%, the interest factor for the relevant interest period shall be 10.00%.

Based on a hypothetical interest factor of 10.00%, the hypothetical interest rate with respect to the relevant interest payment

date and the hypothetical interest amount, as a percentage of the face amount of each note, that would be payable with respect to the relevant interest period in which the closing level of the index is greater than or equal to the index barrier level for the indicated number of reference dates are set forth below:

N* (A)	Assumed number of eligible trading days in an interest period (B)	Fraction (A/B) x Hypothetical Interest Factor of 10.00%	Amount of interest to be paid on the related interest payment date (using 30/360 (ISDA) convention)
0	60	0.00000000	0.00%
15	60	0.02500000	0.63%
30	60	0.05000000	1.25%
45	60	0.07500000	1.88%
60	60	0.10000000	2.50%

**The number of days for which the closing level of the index is greater than or equal to the index barrier level in a given interest period is subject to numerous adjustments, as described elsewhere in this prospectus supplement.*

Example 4: Based on a hypothetical 30-year CMS rate of 1.00% and a hypothetical 2-year CMS rate of 3.00% on the relevant interest factor determination date, the hypothetical interest factor for the relevant interest period equals:

$$(1.00\% - 3.00\%) \times 8.0 = -16.00\%$$

S-7

[Table of Contents](#)

Given that -2.00% times 8.0 equals -16.00%, which is less than 0.00%, the hypothetical interest factor for the relevant interest period shall be 0.00%. The notes will not pay any interest on the relevant interest payment date regardless of the number of reference dates on which the closing level of the index exceeds or equals the index barrier level.

The levels in the left column of the table below represent hypothetical final index levels and are expressed as percentages of the initial index level. The amounts in the right column represent the hypothetical cash settlement amounts, based on the corresponding hypothetical final index level (expressed as a percentage of the initial index level), and are expressed as percentages of the face amount of a note (rounded to the nearest one-thousandth of a percent). Thus, a hypothetical cash settlement amount of 100.000% means that the value of the cash payment that we would deliver for each \$1,000 of the outstanding face amount of the offered notes on the stated maturity date would equal 100.000% of the face amount of a note, based on the corresponding hypothetical final index level (expressed as a percentage of the initial index level) and the assumptions noted above.

Hypothetical Final Index Level (as Percentage of Initial Index Level)	Hypothetical Cash Settlement Amount* (as Percentage of Face Amount)
200.000%	100.000%
175.000%	100.000%
150.000%	100.000%
125.000%	100.000%
100.000%	100.000%
99.000%	100.000%
80.000%	100.000%
65.000%	100.000%
50.000%	100.000%
49.999%	49.999%
40.000%	40.000%
35.000%	35.000%
25.000%	25.000%
0.000%	0.000%

*Does not include interest, if any, payable on the stated maturity date

If, for example, the final index level were determined to be 25.000% of the initial index level, the cash settlement amount that we would deliver on your notes at maturity would be 25.000% of the face amount of your notes, as shown in the table above. As a result, if you purchased your notes on the original issue date at the face amount and held them to the stated maturity date, you would lose 75.000% of your investment (if you purchased your notes at a premium to face amount you would lose a correspondingly higher percentage of your investment). In addition, if the final index level were determined to be 200.000% of the initial index level, the cash settlement amount that we would deliver on your notes at maturity would be limited to 100.000% of each \$1,000 face amount of your notes, as shown in the table above. As a result, if you held your notes to the stated maturity date, you would not benefit from any increase in the final index level over the initial index level.

The cash settlement amounts shown above are entirely hypothetical; they are based on market prices for the index stocks that may not be achieved on the determination date and on assumptions that may prove to be erroneous. The actual market value of your notes on the stated maturity date or at any other time, including any time you may wish to sell your notes, may bear little relation to the hypothetical cash settlement amounts shown above, and these amounts should not be viewed as an indication of the financial return on an investment in the offered notes. The hypothetical cash settlement amounts on notes held to the stated maturity date in the examples above assume you purchased your notes at their face amount and have not been adjusted to reflect the actual issue price you pay for your notes. The return on your investment (whether positive or negative) in your notes will be affected by the amount you pay for your notes. If you purchase your notes for a price other than the face amount, the return on your investment will differ from, and may be significantly lower than, the hypothetical returns suggested by the above examples. Please read "Additional Risk Factors Specific to Your Notes — The Market Value of Your Notes May Be Influenced by Many Unpredictable Factors" on page S-13.

S-8

[Table of Contents](#)

Payments on the notes are economically equivalent to the amounts that would be paid on a combination of other instruments. For example, payments on the notes are economically equivalent to a combination of an interest-bearing bond bought by the holder and one or more options entered into between the holder and us (with one or more implicit option premiums paid over time). The discussion in this paragraph does not modify or affect the terms of the notes or the U.S. federal income tax treatment of the notes, as described elsewhere in this prospectus supplement.

We cannot predict the actual closing level of the index on any day, the level of the CMS spread on any interest factor determination date, the final index level or what the market value of your notes will be on any particular day, nor can we predict the relationship among the closing level of the index, the levels of the CMS rates and the market value of your notes at any time prior to the stated maturity date. The actual interest payment, if any, that a holder of the notes will receive on each interest payment date, the actual amount, if any, that a holder of the notes will receive at maturity and the rate of return on the offered notes will depend on the actual CMS spread on each interest factor determination date and the actual closing levels of the index and the actual final index level determined by the calculation agent as described above. Moreover, the assumptions on which the hypothetical examples are based may turn out to be inaccurate. Consequently, the interest amount to be paid in respect of your notes, if any, and the cash amount to be paid in respect of your notes on the stated maturity date, if any, may be very different from the information reflected in the tables and examples above.

S-9

[Table of Contents](#)

ADDITIONAL RISK FACTORS SPECIFIC TO YOUR NOTES

An investment in your notes is subject to the risks described below, as well as the risks and considerations described in the accompanying prospectus dated September 15, 2014 and in the accompanying prospectus supplement dated September 15, 2014. You should carefully review these risks and considerations as well as the terms of the notes described herein and in the accompanying prospectus, dated September 15, 2014, as supplemented by the accompanying prospectus supplement, dated September 15, 2014, of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. Your notes are a riskier investment than ordinary debt securities. Also, your notes are not equivalent to investing directly in the index stocks, i.e., the stocks comprising the index to which your notes are linked. You should carefully consider whether the offered notes are suited to your particular circumstances.

The Estimated Value of Your Notes At the Time the Terms of Your Notes Are Set On the Trade Date (as

Determined By Reference to Pricing Models Used By GS&Co.) Is Less Than the Original Issue Price Of Your Notes

The original issue price for your notes exceeds the estimated value of your notes as of the time the terms of your notes are set on the trade date, as determined by reference to GS&Co.'s pricing models and taking into account our credit spreads. Such estimated value on the trade date is set forth above under "Estimated Value of Your Notes"; after the trade date, the estimated value as determined by reference to these models will be affected by changes in market conditions, our creditworthiness and other relevant factors. The price at which GS&Co. would initially buy or sell your notes (if GS&Co. makes a market, which it is not obligated to do), and the value that GS&Co. will initially use for account statements and otherwise, also exceeds the estimated value of your notes as determined by reference to these models. As agreed by GS&Co. and the distribution participants, the amount of this excess will decline on a straight line basis over the period from the date hereof through the applicable date set forth above under "Estimated Value of Your Notes". Thereafter, if GS&Co. buys or sells your notes it will do so at prices that reflect the estimated value determined by reference to such pricing models at that time. The price at which GS&Co. will buy or sell your notes at any time also will reflect its then current bid and ask spread for similar sized trades of structured notes.

In estimating the value of your notes as of the time the terms of your notes are set on the trade date, as disclosed above under "Estimated Value of Your Notes", GS&Co.'s pricing models consider certain variables, including principally our credit spreads, interest rates (forecasted, current and historical rates), volatility, price-sensitivity analysis and the time to maturity of the notes. These pricing models are proprietary and rely in part on certain assumptions about future events, which may prove to be incorrect. As a result, the actual value you would receive if you sold your notes in the secondary market, if any, to others may differ, perhaps materially, from the estimated value of your notes determined by reference to our models due to, among other things, any differences in pricing models or assumptions used by others. See "— The Market Value of Your Notes May Be Influenced by Many Unpredictable Factors" below.

The difference between the estimated value of your notes as of the time the terms of your notes are set on the trade date and the original issue price is a result of certain factors, including principally the underwriting discount and commissions, the expenses incurred in creating, documenting and marketing the notes, and an estimate of the difference between the amounts we pay to GS&Co. and the amounts GS&Co. pays to us in connection with your notes. We pay to GS&Co. amounts based on what we would pay to holders of a non-structured note with a similar maturity. In return for such payment, GS&Co. pays to us the amounts we owe under your notes.

In addition to the factors discussed above, the value and quoted price of your notes at any time will reflect many factors and cannot be predicted. If GS&Co. makes a market in the notes, the price quoted by GS&Co. would reflect any changes in market conditions and other relevant factors, including any deterioration in our creditworthiness or perceived creditworthiness. These changes may adversely affect the value of your notes, including the price you may receive for your notes in any market making transaction. To the extent that GS&Co. makes a market in the notes, the quoted price will reflect the estimated value determined by reference to GS&Co.'s pricing models at that time, plus or minus its then current bid and ask spread for similar sized trades of structured notes (and subject to the declining excess amount described above).

S-10

[Table of Contents](#)

Furthermore, if you sell your notes, you will likely be charged a commission for secondary market transactions, or the price will likely reflect a dealer discount. This commission or discount will further reduce the proceeds you would receive for your notes in a secondary market sale.

There is no assurance that GS&Co. or any other party will be willing to purchase your notes at any price and, in this regard, GS&Co. is not obligated to make a market in the notes. See "— Your Notes May Not Have an Active Trading Market" below.

The Notes Are Subject to the Credit Risk of the Issuer

Although the interest payments on the notes after the first four interest payment dates, if any, will be based on the performance of the index and the relationship between the 30-year CMS rate and the 2-year CMS rate, the payment of any amount due on the notes is subject to our credit risk. The notes are our unsecured obligations. Investors are dependent on our ability to pay all amounts due on the notes, and therefore investors are subject to our credit risk and to changes in the market's view of our creditworthiness. See "Description of the Notes We May Offer — Information About Our Medium-Term Notes, Series D Program — How the Notes Rank Against Other Debt" on page S-4 of the accompanying prospectus supplement.

We Are Able to Redeem Your Notes at Our Option

We have the right to redeem your notes, in whole but not in part, at 100% of their outstanding face amount *plus* any accrued and unpaid interest up to but excluding the redemption date, on the interest payment date falling on November 30, 2016 and on each interest payment date occurring thereafter, upon ten business days' prior notice. Even if we do not exercise our option to redeem your notes, our ability to do so may adversely affect the value of your notes. It is our sole option whether to redeem your notes prior to maturity and we may or may not exercise this option for any reason. Because of this redemption option, the term of your notes could be anywhere between one and fifteen years.

You May Lose Your Entire Investment in the Notes

You can lose your entire investment in the notes. The cash settlement amount on your notes, if any, on the stated maturity date will be based solely on the performance of the index as measured from the initial index level to the closing level on the determination date. If the final index level for your notes is *less than* the trigger buffer level, you will have a loss for each \$1,000 of the face amount of your notes equal to the *product* of the index return *times* \$1,000. Thus, you may lose your entire investment in the notes, which would include any premium to face amount you paid when you purchased the notes.

Also, the market price of your notes prior to the stated maturity date may be significantly lower than the purchase price you pay for your notes. Consequently, if you sell your notes before the stated maturity date, you may receive far less than the amount of your investment in the notes.

If the Closing Level of the Index Is Less Than the Index Barrier Level on Any Reference Date in Any Interest Period, the Interest Rate With Respect to the Next Interest Payment Date Will Be Reduced

Because of the formula used to calculate the interest payment applicable to your notes on any interest payment date after the first four interest payment dates, in the event the closing level of the index on any reference date in any applicable interest period is less than the index barrier level, the interest rate with respect to the next interest payment date will be reduced. Therefore, if the closing level of the index is less than the index barrier level for an entire interest period, you will receive no interest on the related interest payment date. Even if you receive some interest payments on some or all of the interest payment dates, the overall return you earn on your notes may be less than you would have earned by investing in a non-indexed debt security of comparable maturity that bears interest at a prevailing market rate.

If the CMS Spread Is Less Than or Equal to 0% on the Relevant Interest Factor Determination Date for Any Interest Period, No Interest Will Be Paid for that Interest Period

Because of the formula used to calculate the interest payment applicable to your notes on any interest payment date after the first four interest payment dates, in the event that on the relevant interest factor determination date the 30-year CMS rate does not exceed the 2-year CMS rate, no interest will be paid for the corresponding interest period, even if the CMS spread on subsequent days is *greater than*

S-11

[Table of Contents](#)

0%. Therefore, if the 30-year CMS rate does not exceed the 2-year CMS rate for a prolonged period of time over the life of your notes including interest factor determination dates, you will receive no interest during the affected interest periods. In such case, even if you receive some interest payments on some or all of the interest payment dates, the overall return you earn on your notes may be less than you would have earned by investing in a non-indexed debt security of comparable maturity that bears interest at a prevailing market rate.

The Amount of Interest Payable On The Notes In Any Quarter Is Capped

On each of the first four interest payment dates, interest will be paid at a rate of 10.00% per annum. After the first four interest payment dates, the interest rate will be based in part on the interest factor which is subject to a maximum interest factor of 10.00% per annum. This will limit the amount of interest you may receive on each interest payment date after the first four interest payment dates. Because of the formula used to calculate the interest factor for your notes, if (i) the CMS spread *times* (ii) 8.0 is *greater than or equal to* 10.00% per annum on an interest factor determination date, the interest factor for such interest period will be capped at 10.00% per annum and if the closing level of the index is below the index barrier level on one or more reference dates during an index period, your rate of interest will be less than the interest factor and may be zero. Thus, you will not benefit from any increases in the CMS spread above 1.25%. Furthermore, since the interest factor is determined quarterly, if the interest rate for at least one interest period during any year is *less than* 10.00% per annum, your actual return for such year will be *less than* 10.00%

per annum, even if the interest rate is 10.00% per annum for the remaining interest periods during such year. Thus, the notes may provide less interest income than an investment in a similar instrument without a maximum interest factor.

The Return on Your Notes May Change Significantly Despite Only a Small Change in the Index Level

If the final index level is less than the trigger buffer level, you will receive less than the face amount of your notes and you could lose all of your investment in the notes. This means that while a 50.00% decrease between the initial index level and the final index level will not result in a loss of principal on the notes, a decrease in the final index level to less than 50.00% of the initial index level will result in a loss of a significant portion of the principal amount of the notes despite only a small change in the index level.

If You Purchase Your Notes at a Premium to Face Amount, the Return on Your Investment Will Be Lower Than the Return on Notes Purchased at Face Amount and the Impact of Certain Key Terms of the Notes Will be Negatively Affected

The cash settlement amount you will be paid for your notes on the stated maturity date will not be adjusted based on the issue price you pay for the notes. If you purchase notes at a price that differs from the face amount of the notes, then the return on your investment in such notes held to the stated maturity date will differ from, and may be substantially less than, the return on notes purchased at face amount. If you purchase your notes at a premium to face amount and hold them to the stated maturity date, the return on your investment in the notes will be lower than it would have been had you purchased the notes at face amount or a discount to face amount. In addition, the impact of the trigger buffer level on the return on your investment will depend upon the price you pay for your notes relative to face amount. For example, the trigger buffer level, while still providing some protection for the return on the notes, will allow a greater percentage decrease in your investment in the notes than would have been the case for notes purchased at face amount or a discount to face amount.

S-12

[Table of Contents](#)

The Market Value of Your Notes May Be Influenced by Many Unpredictable Factors

When we refer to the market value of your notes, we mean the value that you could receive for your notes if you chose to sell them in the open market before the stated maturity date. A number of factors, many of which are beyond our control, will influence the market value of your notes, including:

- the level of the index;
- the 30-year CMS rate and the 2-year CMS rate;
- the expected future performance of the CMS spread;
- the volatility – i.e., the frequency and magnitude of changes – in the closing level of the index and the level of the CMS spread;
- the dividend rates of the index stocks;
- economic, financial, legislative, regulatory, political, military and other events that affect CMS rates and stock markets generally, and the index stocks, and which may affect the closing level of the index;
- interest rates and yield rates in the market;
- the time remaining until your notes mature; and
- our creditworthiness, whether actual or perceived, and including actual or anticipated upgrades or downgrades in our credit ratings or changes in other credit measures.

These factors, and many other factors, will influence the price you will receive if you sell your notes before maturity, including the price you may receive for your notes in any market making transaction. If you sell your notes before maturity, you may receive less than the face amount of your notes.

You cannot predict the future performance of the index or the CMS rates based on their historical performance. The actual performance of the index and the CMS rates over the life of the offered notes, as well as the interest payable on each interest payment date after the first four interest payment dates, may bear little or no relation to the historical closing levels of the index, the levels of the CMS spread or the hypothetical examples shown elsewhere in this prospectus supplement.

The Amount of Interest Payable on Your Notes After the First Four Interest Payment Dates Will Not Be Affected by the CMS Spread on Any Day Other Than the Interest Factor Determination Date for the Applicable Interest Period

For each interest payment date after the first four interest payment dates, the amount of interest payable on each interest payment date is calculated based in part on the CMS spread on the interest factor determination date for the applicable interest period. Although the actual CMS spread on an interest payment date or at other times may be higher than the CMS spread on the interest factor determination date, you will not benefit from the CMS spread at any time other than on such interest factor determination date.

If the Level of the Index Changes, the Market Value of Your Notes May Not Change in the Same Manner

The price of your notes may move differently than the performance of the index. Changes in the level of the index may not result in a comparable change in the market value of your notes. Even if the closing level of the index is greater than or equal to the index barrier level during some portion of the life of the notes, the market value of your notes may not increase in the same manner. We discuss some of the reasons for this disparity under “— The Market Value of Your Notes May Be Influenced by Many Unpredictable Factors” above.

If the CMS Spread Changes, the Market Value of Your Notes May Not Change in the Same Manner

The price of your notes may move differently than the CMS spread. The CMS spread will vary during the term of the notes based on the relationship between the 30-year CMS rate and the 2-year CMS rate as well as the market's expectation of this relationship in the future. Changes in the CMS spread may not result in a comparable change in the market value of your notes. Even if the CMS spread is greater than 0% during some portion of the life of the offered notes, the market value of your notes may

S-13

[Table of Contents](#)

not increase in the same manner. We discuss some of the reasons for this disparity under “— The Market Value of Your Notes May Be Influenced by Many Unpredictable Factors” above.

Because of the long-dated maturity of your notes, the expected future performance of the CMS rates will have a greater impact on the market value of your notes than if your notes had an earlier maturity date. In particular, the expected future performance of the CMS rates may cause the market value of your notes to decrease even though the CMS spread *may* be greater than 0% during some portion of the life of the offered notes. Moreover, expectations about the performance of the CMS rates in the future are subject to a great degree of uncertainty and may be based on assumptions about the future that may prove to be incorrect. Even if the expected future performance of the CMS rates is favorable to your notes, this uncertainty may result in market participants substantially discounting this future performance when determining the market value of your notes.

Anticipated Hedging Activities by Goldman Sachs or Our Distributors May Negatively Impact Investors in the Notes and Cause Our Interests and Those of Our Clients and Counterparties to be Contrary to Those of Investors in the Notes

Goldman Sachs expects to hedge our obligations under the notes by purchasing futures and/or other instruments linked to the CMS rates or the index. Goldman Sachs also expects to adjust the hedge by, among other things, purchasing or selling any of the foregoing, and perhaps other instruments linked to the CMS rates, the index or the index stocks, at any time and from time to time, and to unwind the hedge by selling any of the foregoing on or before any interest determination date for your notes. Alternatively, Goldman Sachs may hedge all or part of our obligations under the notes with unaffiliated distributors of the notes which we expect will undertake similar market activity. Goldman Sachs may also enter into, adjust and unwind hedging transactions relating to other index-linked notes whose returns are linked to changes in the level of the CMS spread, the index or one or more of the index stocks.

In addition to entering into such transactions itself, or distributors entering into such transactions, Goldman Sachs may structure such transactions for its clients or counterparties, or otherwise advise or assist clients or counterparties in entering into such transactions. These activities may be undertaken to achieve a variety of objectives, including: permitting other purchasers of the notes or other securities to hedge their investment in whole or in part; facilitating transactions for other clients or counterparties that may have business objectives or investment strategies that are inconsistent with or contrary to those of investors in the notes; hedging the exposure of Goldman Sachs to the notes including any interest in the notes that it reacquires or retains as part of the

offering process, through its market-making activities or otherwise; enabling Goldman Sachs to comply with its internal risk limits or otherwise manage firmwide, business unit or product risk; and/or enabling Goldman Sachs to take directional views as to relevant markets on behalf of itself or its clients or counterparties that are inconsistent with or contrary to the views and objectives of the investors in the notes.

Any of these hedging or other activities may adversely affect the levels of the CMS spread or the index — directly or indirectly by affecting the price of the index stocks — and therefore the market value of your notes and the amount we will pay on your notes, if any. In addition, you should expect that these transactions will cause Goldman Sachs or its clients, counterparties or distributors to have economic interests and incentives that do not align with, and that may be directly contrary to, those of an investor in the notes. Neither Goldman Sachs nor any distributor will have any obligation to take, refrain from taking or cease taking any action with respect to these transactions based on the potential effect on an investor in the notes, and may receive substantial returns on hedging or other activities while the value of your notes declines. In addition, if the distributor from which you purchase notes is to conduct hedging activities in connection with the notes, that distributor may otherwise profit in connection with such hedging activities and such profit, if any, will be in addition to the compensation that the distributor receives for the sale of the notes to you. You should be aware that the potential to earn fees in connection with hedging activities may create a further incentive for the distributor to sell the notes to you in addition to the compensation they would receive for the sale of the notes.

S-14

[Table of Contents](#)

Goldman Sachs' Trading and Investment Activities for its Own Account or for its Clients, Could Negatively Impact Investors in the Notes

Goldman Sachs is a global investment banking, securities and investment management firm that provides a wide range of financial services to a substantial and diversified client base that includes corporations, financial institutions, governments and high-net-worth individuals. As such, it acts as an investor, investment banker, research provider, investment manager, investment advisor, market maker, trader, prime broker and lender. In those and other capacities, Goldman Sachs purchases, sells or holds a broad array of investments, actively trades securities, derivatives, loans, commodities, currencies, credit default swaps, indices, baskets and other financial instruments and products for its own account or for the accounts of its customers, and will have other direct or indirect interests, in the global fixed income, currency, commodity, equity, bank loan and other markets. Any of Goldman Sachs' financial market activities may, individually or in the aggregate, have an adverse effect on the market for your notes, and you should expect that the interests of Goldman Sachs or its clients or counterparties will at times be adverse to those of investors in the notes.

Goldman Sachs regularly offers a wide array of securities, financial instruments and other products into the marketplace, including existing or new products that are similar to your notes, or similar or linked to the index or index stocks. Investors in the notes should expect that Goldman Sachs will offer securities, financial instruments, and other products that will compete with the notes for liquidity, research coverage or otherwise.

Goldman Sachs' Market-Making Activities Could Negatively Impact Investors in the Notes

Goldman Sachs actively makes markets in and trades financial instruments for its own account and for the accounts of customers. These financial instruments include debt and equity securities, currencies, commodities, bank loans, indices, baskets and other products. Goldman Sachs' activities include, among other things, executing large block trades and taking long and short positions directly and indirectly, through derivative instruments or otherwise. The securities and instruments in which Goldman Sachs takes positions, or expects to take positions, include securities and instruments of the index or index stocks, securities and instruments similar to or linked to the foregoing or the currencies in which they are denominated. Market making is an activity where Goldman Sachs buys and sells on behalf of customers, or for its own account, to satisfy the expected demand of customers. By its nature, market making involves facilitating transactions among market participants that have differing views of securities and instruments. As a result, you should expect that Goldman Sachs will take positions that are inconsistent with, or adverse to, the investment objectives of investors in the notes.

If Goldman Sachs becomes a holder of any securities of the index or index stocks in its capacity as a market-maker or otherwise, any actions that it takes in its capacity as securityholder, including voting or provision of consents, will not necessarily be aligned with, and may be inconsistent with, the interests of investors in the notes.

You Should Expect That Goldman Sachs Personnel Will Take Research Positions, or Otherwise Make Recommendations, Provide Investment Advice or Market Color or Encourage Trading Strategies That Might Negatively Impact Investors in the Notes

Goldman Sachs and its personnel, including its sales and trading, investment research and investment management personnel, regularly make investment recommendations, provide market color or trading ideas, or publish or express independent views in respect of a wide range of markets, issuers, securities and instruments. They regularly implement, or recommend to clients that they implement, various investment strategies relating to these markets, issuers, securities and instruments. These strategies include, for example, buying or selling credit protection against a default or other event involving an issuer or financial instrument. Any of these recommendations and views may be negative with respect to the index or index stocks or other securities or instruments similar to or linked to the foregoing or result in trading strategies that have a negative impact on the market for any such securities or instruments, particularly in illiquid markets. In addition, you should expect that personnel in the trading and investing businesses of Goldman Sachs will have or develop independent views of the index or index stocks, the relevant industry or other market trends, which may not be aligned with the views and objectives of investors in the notes.

S-15

[Table of Contents](#)

Goldman Sachs Regularly Provides Services to, or Otherwise Has Business Relationships with, a Broad Client Base, Which May Include the Sponsors of the Index or the Issuers of the Index Stocks or Other Entities That Are Involved in the Transaction

Goldman Sachs regularly provides financial advisory, investment advisory and transactional services to a substantial and diversified client base, and you should assume that Goldman Sachs will, at present or in the future, provide such services or otherwise engage in transactions with, among others, the sponsors of the index or the issuers of the index stocks, or transact in securities or instruments or with parties that are directly or indirectly related to the foregoing. These services could include making loans to or equity investments in those companies, providing financial advisory or other investment banking services, or issuing research reports. You should expect that Goldman Sachs, in providing such services, engaging in such transactions, or acting for its own account, may take actions that have direct or indirect effects on the index or index stocks, as applicable, and that such actions could be adverse to the interests of investors in the notes. In addition, in connection with these activities, certain Goldman Sachs personnel may have access to confidential material non-public information about these parties that would not be disclosed to Goldman Sachs employees that were not working on such transactions as Goldman Sachs has established internal information barriers that are designed to preserve the confidentiality of non-public information. Therefore, any such confidential material non-public information would not be shared with Goldman Sachs employees involved in structuring, selling or making markets in the notes or with investors in the notes.

In this offering, as well as in all other circumstances in which Goldman Sachs receives any fees or other compensation in any form relating to services provided to or transactions with any other party, no accounting, offset or payment in respect of the notes will be required or made; Goldman Sachs will be entitled to retain all such fees and other amounts, and no fees or other compensation payable by any party or indirectly by holders of the notes will be reduced by reason of receipt by Goldman Sachs of any such other fees or other amounts.

The Offering of the Notes May Reduce an Existing Exposure of Goldman Sachs or Facilitate a Transaction or Position That Serves the Objectives of Goldman Sachs or Other Parties

A completed offering may reduce Goldman Sachs' existing exposure to the index or index stocks, securities and instruments similar to or linked to the foregoing or the currencies in which they are denominated, including exposure gained through hedging transactions in anticipation of this offering. An offering of notes will effectively transfer a portion of Goldman Sachs' exposure (and indirectly transfer the exposure of Goldman Sachs' hedging or other counterparties) to investors in the notes.

The terms of the offering (including the selection of the index or index stocks, and the establishment of other transaction terms) may have been selected in order to serve the investment or other objectives of Goldman Sachs or another client or counterparty of Goldman Sachs. In such a case, Goldman Sachs would typically receive the input of other parties that are involved in or otherwise have an interest in the offering, transactions hedged by the offering, or related transactions. The incentives of these other parties would normally differ from and in many cases be contrary to those of investors in the notes.

Other Investors in the Notes May Not Have the Same Interests as You

Other investors in the notes are not required to take into account the interests of any other investor in exercising remedies or voting or other rights in their capacity as security holders or in making requests or recommendations to Goldman Sachs as to the establishment of other transaction terms. The interests of other investors may, in some circumstances, be adverse to your interests. For example, certain investors may take short positions (directly or indirectly through derivative transactions) on assets that are the

same or similar to your notes, the index, the index stocks or other similar securities, which may adversely impact the market for or value of your notes.

The Policies of the Index Sponsor and Changes that Affect the Index or Index Stocks Comprising the Index, Could Affect the Amount of Interest Payable on Your Notes and Their Market Value

The policies of the index sponsor concerning the calculation of the level of the index, additions, deletions or substitutions of the index stocks comprising the index, and the manner in which changes affecting the index stocks or their issuers, such as stock dividends, reorganizations or mergers, are reflected in the index level, could affect the level of the index and, therefore, the amount of interest

S-16

[Table of Contents](#)

payable on your notes on any interest payment date and the market value of your notes before that date. The amount of interest payable on your notes and their market value could also be affected if the index sponsor changes these policies, for example, by changing the manner in which it calculates the index level, or if the index sponsor discontinues or suspends calculation or publication of the index level, in which case it may become difficult to determine the market value of your notes. If events such as these occur, the calculation agent — which initially will be GS&Co., our affiliate — may determine the index levels on any such date — and thus the amount payable on any interest payment date — in a manner it considers appropriate, in its sole discretion. We describe the discretion that the calculation agent will have in determining the index levels on any trading day and the interest determination date and the amount of interest payable on your notes more fully under “Specific Terms of Your Notes — Discontinuance or Modification of an Index” and “— Role of Calculation Agent” below.

You Have No Shareholder Rights or Rights to Receive Any Index Stock

Investing in your notes will not make you a holder of any of the index stocks. Neither you nor any other holder or owner of your notes will have any voting rights, any right to receive dividends or other distributions, any rights to make a claim against the index or the stocks comprising the index or any other rights with respect to the index stocks. Your notes will be paid in cash, as will any interest payments, and you will have no right to receive delivery of any index stocks.

The Historical Levels of the CMS Spread Are Not an Indication of the Future Levels of the CMS Spread

In the past, the level of the CMS spread has experienced significant fluctuations. You should note that historical levels, fluctuations and trends of the CMS spread are not necessarily indicative of future levels. Any historical upward or downward trend in the CMS spread is not an indication that the CMS spread is more or less likely to increase or decrease at any time, and you should not take the historical levels of the CMS spread as an indication of its future performance.

Past Index Performance is No Guide to Future Performance

The actual performance of the index over the life of the notes, as well as the amount payable at maturity, may bear little relation to the historical closing level of the index or to the hypothetical return examples set forth elsewhere in this prospectus supplement. We cannot predict the future performance of the index.

There Is No Affiliation Between the Index Stock Issuers or the Index Sponsor and Us, and We Are Not Responsible For Any Disclosure By the Index Stock Issuers or the Index Sponsor

We are not affiliated with the issuers of the index stocks or the index sponsor. As we have told you above, however, we or our affiliates may currently or from time to time in the future own securities of, or engage in business with the index sponsor or the index stock issuers. See “The Index” below for additional information about the index.

Neither the index sponsor nor any of the index stock issuers are involved in the offering of your notes in any way and none of them have any obligation of any sort with respect to your notes. Thus, neither the index sponsor nor any of the index stock issuers have any obligation to take your interests into consideration for any reason, including in taking any corporate actions that might affect the market value of your notes.

Recent Regulatory Investigations Regarding Potential Manipulation of ISDAfix May Adversely Affect Your Notes

It has been reported that the U.K. Financial Conduct Authority and the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission are working together to investigate potential manipulation of ISDAfix. If such manipulation occurred, it may have resulted in the CMS spread being artificially lower (or higher) than it would otherwise have been. Any changes or reforms affecting the determination or supervision of ISDAfix in light of these investigations may result in a sudden or prolonged increase or decrease in reported ISDAfix or the CMS spread, which could have an adverse impact on the trading market for ISDAfix-benchmarked securities such as your notes, the value of your notes and any payments on your notes.

S-17

[Table of Contents](#)

As Calculation Agent, GS&Co. Will Have the Authority to Make Determinations that Could Affect the Value of Your Notes and the Amount You May Receive On Any Interest Payment Date

As calculation agent for your notes, GS&Co. will have discretion in making certain determinations that affect your notes, including determining: the closing level of the index on any reference date, which we will use to determine the amount, if any, we will pay on any applicable interest payment date; the levels of the CMS rates and the spread on any interest factor determination date, which we will use to determine the interest factor applicable to an interest period; market disruption events; non-trading days; non-business days; non-U.S. Government securities business days; the interest determination dates; and the stated maturity date. The calculation agent also has discretion in making certain adjustments relating to a discontinuation or modification of the index. See “Specific Terms of Your Notes — Discontinuance or Modification of the Index” below. The exercise of this discretion by GS&Co. could adversely affect the value of your notes and may present GS&Co. with a conflict of interest of the kind described under “— Our Business Activities May Create Conflicts of Interest Between Your Interest in the Notes and Us” above. We may change the calculation agent at any time without notice and GS&Co. may resign as calculation agent at any time upon 60 days’ written notice to Goldman Sachs.

Your Notes May Not Have an Active Trading Market

Your notes will not be listed or displayed on any securities exchange or included in any interdealer market quotation system, and there may be little or no secondary market for your notes. Even if a secondary market for your notes develops, it may not provide significant liquidity and we expect that transaction costs in any secondary market would be high. As a result, the difference between bid and asked prices for your notes in any secondary market could be substantial.

Certain Considerations for Insurance Companies and Employee Benefit Plans

Any insurance company or fiduciary of a pension plan or other employee benefit plan that is subject to the prohibited transaction rules of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, which we call “ERISA”, or the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, including an IRA or a Keogh plan (or a governmental plan to which similar prohibitions apply), and that is considering purchasing the offered notes with the assets of the insurance company or the assets of such a plan, should consult with its counsel regarding whether the purchase or holding of the offered notes could become a “prohibited transaction” under ERISA, the Internal Revenue Code or any substantially similar prohibition in light of the representations a purchaser or holder in any of the above categories is deemed to make by purchasing and holding the offered notes. This is discussed in more detail under “Employee Retirement Income Security Act” below.

We May Sell an Additional Aggregate Face Amount of the Notes at a Different Issue Price

At our sole option, we may decide to sell an additional aggregate face amount of the notes subsequent to the date of this prospectus supplement. The issue price of the notes in the subsequent sale may differ substantially (higher or lower) from the issue price you paid as provided on the cover of this prospectus supplement.

The Tax Consequences of an Investment in Your Notes Are Uncertain

The tax consequences of an investment in your notes are uncertain, both as to the timing and character of any inclusion in income in respect of your notes.

The Internal Revenue Service announced on December 7, 2007 that it is considering issuing guidance regarding the tax treatment of an instrument such as your notes, and any such guidance could adversely affect the value and the tax treatment of your notes. Among other things, the Internal Revenue Service may decide to require the holders to accrue ordinary income on a current basis and recognize ordinary income on payment at maturity, and could subject non-U.S. investors to withholding tax. Furthermore, in 2007, legislation was introduced in Congress that, if enacted, would have required holders that acquired

instruments such as your notes after the bill was enacted to accrue interest income over the term of such notes. It is not possible to predict whether a similar or identical bill will be enacted in the future, or whether any such bill would affect the tax treatment of such notes. We describe these developments in more detail under “Supplemental Discussion of Federal Income Tax Consequences – United States Holders – Possible Change in Law” below. You should consult your tax advisor about this matter. Except to the extent otherwise provided by law, The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. intends to

S-18

[Table of Contents](#)

continue treating the notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes in accordance with the treatment described under “Supplemental Discussion of Federal Income Tax Consequences” below unless and until such time as Congress, the Treasury Department or the Internal Revenue Service determine that some other treatment is more appropriate. Please also consult your tax advisor concerning the U.S. federal income tax and any other applicable tax consequences to you of owning your notes in your particular circumstances.

Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) Withholding May Apply to Payments on Your Notes, Including as a Result of the Failure of the Bank or Broker Through Which You Hold the Notes to Provide Information to Tax Authorities

Please see the discussion under “United States Taxation — Taxation of Debt Securities — Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) Withholding” in the accompanying prospectus for a description of the applicability of FATCA to payments made on your notes.

S-19

[Table of Contents](#)

SPECIFIC TERMS OF YOUR NOTES

We refer to the notes we are offering by this prospectus supplement as the “offered notes” or the “notes”. Please note that in this prospectus supplement, references to “The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.”, “we”, “our” and “us” mean only The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and do not include its consolidated subsidiaries. Also, references to the “accompanying prospectus” mean the accompanying prospectus, dated September 15, 2014, as supplemented by the accompanying prospectus supplement, dated September 15, 2014, in each case relating to the Medium-Term Notes, Series D, of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. Please note that in this section entitled “Specific Terms of Your Notes”, references to “holders” mean those who own notes registered in their own names, on the books that we or the trustee maintain for this purpose, and not those who own beneficial interests in notes registered in street name or in notes issued in book-entry form through The Depository Trust Company. Please review the special considerations that apply to owners of beneficial interests in the accompanying prospectus, under “Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance”.

The offered notes are part of a series of debt securities, entitled “Medium-Term Notes, Series D”, that we may issue under the indenture from time to time as described in the accompanying prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus. The offered notes are also “indexed debt securities”, as defined in the accompanying prospectus.

This prospectus supplement summarizes specific financial and other terms that apply to the offered notes, including your notes; terms that apply generally to all Series D medium-term notes are described in “Description of Notes We May Offer” in the accompanying prospectus supplement. The terms described here supplement those described in the accompanying prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and, if the terms described here are inconsistent with those described there, the terms described here are controlling.

In addition to those terms described on the first three pages of this prospectus supplement, the following terms will apply to your notes:

Specified currency:

- U.S. dollars (“\$”).

Form of note:

- global form only: yes, at DTC

- non-global form available: no

Denominations: each note registered in the name of a holder must have a face amount of \$1,000 or integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof

Defeasance applies as follows:

- full defeasance: no
- covenant defeasance: no

Other terms:

- the default amount will be payable on any acceleration of the maturity of your notes as described under “— Special Calculation Provisions” below
- a business day for your notes will not be the same as a business day for our other Series D medium-term notes, as described under “— Special Calculation Provisions” below
- a trading day for your notes will be as described under “— Special Calculation Provisions” below

Please note that the information about the settlement or trade date, issue price, discount or commission and net proceeds to The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. on the front cover page or elsewhere in this prospectus supplement relates only to the initial issuance and sale of the offered notes. We may decide to sell additional notes on one or more dates after the date of this prospectus supplement, at issue

S-20

[Table of Contents](#)

prices, underwriting discounts and net proceeds that differ from the amounts set forth on the front cover page or elsewhere in this prospectus supplement. If you have purchased your notes in a market-making transaction after the initial issuance and sale of the offered notes, any such relevant information about the sale to you will be provided in a separate confirmation of sale.

We describe the terms of your notes in more detail below.

Index, Index Sponsor and Index Stocks

In this prospectus supplement, when we refer to the index, we mean the index specified on the front cover page, or any successor index, as it may be modified, replaced or adjusted from time to time as described under “— Discontinuance or Modification of the Index” below. When we refer to the index sponsor as of any time, we mean the entity, including any successor sponsor, that determines and publishes the index as then in effect. When we refer to the index stocks as of any time, we mean the stocks that comprise the index as then in effect, after giving effect to any additions, deletions or substitutions.

CMS Rates

In this prospectus supplement, when we refer to the 30-year CMS rate on an interest factor determination date, we mean the rate appearing on the Reuters screen ISDAFIX1 page for 30-year index maturity as of approximately 11:00 A.M., New York City time, on such interest factor determination date, subject to adjustment as described under “—Interest Payments” below.

In this prospectus supplement, when we refer to the 2-year CMS rate on an interest factor determination date, we mean the rate appearing on the Reuters screen ISDAFIX1 page for 2-year index maturity as of approximately 11:00 A.M., New York City time, on such interest factor determination date, subject to adjustment as described under “—Interest Payments” below.

Payment of Principal on Stated Maturity Date

Subject to our early redemption right, for each \$1,000 face amount of your notes, we will pay you on the stated maturity date, in addition to interest due and payable, if any, an amount in cash equal to:

- if the final index level is *greater than or equal to* the trigger buffer level, \$1,000; or
- if the final index level is *less than* the trigger buffer level, the *sum* of (1) \$1,000 *plus* (2) the *product* of (i) \$1,000 *times* (ii) the index return.

The index return is calculated by *subtracting* the initial index level from the final index level and *dividing* the result by the initial index level, with the quotient expressed as a percentage.

The initial index level is 1,188.814. The calculation agent will determine the final index level, which will be the closing level of the index on the determination date as calculated and published by the index sponsor. However, the calculation agent will have discretion to adjust the closing level on the determination date or to determine it in a different manner as described under “— Consequences of a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day” and “— Discontinuance or Modification of the Index” below. The trigger buffer level is 594.407, which is 50.00% of the initial index level.

Determination Date

The determination date is November 15, 2030, unless the calculation agent determines that a market disruption event occurs or is continuing on that day or that day is not otherwise a trading day. In that event, the determination date will be the first following trading day on which the calculation agent determines that a market disruption event does not occur and is not continuing. In no event, however, will the determination date be postponed by more than 5 scheduled trading days. If the determination date is postponed to the last possible day, but a market disruption event occurs or is continuing on that day or that day is not a trading day, that day will nevertheless be the determination date.

S-21

Table of Contents

Stated Maturity Date

The stated maturity date is November 30, 2030, unless that day is not a business day, in which case the stated maturity date will instead occur on the next following business day. If the determination date is postponed as described under “— Determination Date” above, such postponement of the determination date will not postpone the stated maturity date.

Consequences of a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day

If a market disruption event occurs or is continuing on a day that would otherwise be the determination date or such day is not a trading day, then the determination date will be postponed as described under “— Determination Date” above.

If the calculation agent determines that the closing level of the index that must be used to determine the cash settlement amount is not available on the determination date because of a market disruption event, a non-trading day or for any other reason (other than as described under “— Discontinuance or Modification of the Index” below), then the calculation agent will nevertheless determine the final index level based on its assessment, made in its sole discretion, of the level of the index on that day.

Interest Payments

For the first four interest payment dates, the interest rate on the notes will be 10.00% per annum. Thereafter, the interest rate with respect to any interest payment date will be determined on the immediately preceding interest determination date, based on the closing level of the index on each reference date during the interest period immediately preceding such interest payment date and on the CMS spread on the applicable interest factor determination date. The interest rate will be equal to: the product of (1) the interest factor *times* (2) the quotient of (i) the number of reference dates during the applicable interest period when the closing level of the index is *greater than or equal to* the index barrier level *divided by* (ii) the number of reference dates in such interest period.

The index barrier level is 713.2884, which is 60.00% of the initial index level.

The interest factor for an interest period will be determined based on the CMS spread on the applicable interest factor determination date and will be equal to:

- if the CMS spread *times* 8.0 is *greater than or equal to* 10.00%, 10.00%;
- if the CMS spread *times* 8.0 is less than 10.00% but greater than zero, the CMS spread *times* 8.0; or
- if the CMS spread *times* 8.0 is less than or equal to zero, 0.00%

On any interest factor determination date, the CMS spread will equal the *difference* of the 30-year CMS rate *minus* the 2-year CMS rate.

If the closing level of the index for any reference date during the applicable interest period is less than the index barrier level, the interest rate for the applicable interest payment date will be reduced.

If the calculation agent determines that the closing level of the index is not available for any reference date because of the occurrence of a market disruption event, a non-trading day or any other reason (other than as described under “— Discontinuance or Modification of the Index” below), then the closing level of the index for such reference date, and for each consecutive reference date thereafter for which the closing level of the index is not available, will be the closing level of the index on the next reference date for which the closing level of the index is available. For example, if the closing level of the index is not available on a Monday through Wednesday and the closing level of the index is available on Thursday, then the closing level of the index for Thursday will also be used for each of Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. However, if the closing level of the index is not available for more than four consecutive reference dates, then on such fifth consecutive reference date and for each consecutive reference date thereafter for which the closing level of the index is not available, the calculation agent will determine the closing level of the index for each such reference date based on its assessment, made in its sole discretion, of the level of the index at the applicable time on such reference date.

Notwithstanding the previous paragraph, if the calculation agent determines that the closing level of the index is not available on the last reference date in any applicable interest period, then the calculation

S-22

[Table of Contents](#)

agent will determine the closing level of the index for such reference date based on its assessment, made in its sole discretion, of the level of the index at the applicable time on such reference date.

The calculation agent will calculate the amount of interest that has accrued on your notes with respect to each interest payment date in the following manner. The calculation agent will calculate the interest rate with respect to such interest payment date as described above and multiply the result by the accrued interest factor and the face amount.

An interest period means the period from and including an interest determination date to but excluding the next succeeding interest determination date, with the exception of the interest period related to the 5th interest payment date, which shall begin on the tenth scheduled trading day prior to the 4th interest payment date. Interest periods are not relevant in determining the interest to be paid on the first four interest payment dates.

The accrued interest factor is calculated in accordance with the day count convention with respect to each period from and including each interest payment date (or the original issue date, in the case of the first interest payment) to but excluding the next succeeding interest payment date.

Interest, if any, will be paid on your notes on the the last calendar day of each February and the 30th calendar day of each May, August and November, beginning on February 29, 2016. If an interest payment date would otherwise be a day that is not a business day, the payment due on that interest payment date will be postponed to the next day that is a business day. However, the interest due with respect to such interest payment date shall not accrue from and including such interest payment date to and including the date of payment of such interest as so postponed. If the stated maturity date does not occur on the originally scheduled day, the interest payment date scheduled to occur on that originally scheduled day will instead occur on the postponed stated maturity date. However, interest on your notes will accrue only up to, but excluding, the originally scheduled stated maturity date.

CMS Spread

For any interest factor determination date, the CMS spread is the *difference* of the 30-year CMS rate *minus* the 2-year CMS rate.

Reference Date

For each interest period, a reference date is each day that is a scheduled trading day.

Interest Factor Determination Dates

For each interest period, the second U.S. Government securities business day preceding the interest payment date occurring

during such interest period. For example, the interest factor determination date used to determine the interest factor for interest to be paid on the 6th interest payment date shall be the second U.S. Government securities business day preceding the 5th interest payment date.

Interest Determination Dates

With respect to the 5th interest payment date and each interest payment date thereafter, each interest determination date will be the tenth scheduled trading day prior to the applicable interest payment date, and the interest determination date will begin the interest period for which payment will be made on the interest payment date occurring approximately three months thereafter. For example, the quarterly interest period applicable to the 6th interest payment date shall begin on the interest determination date that is the tenth scheduled trading day immediately preceding the 5th interest payment date and the interest rate to be paid on the 6th interest payment date shall be determined on the interest determination date that is the tenth scheduled business day prior to the 6th interest payment date.

CMS Rate

In this prospectus supplement, when we refer to the 30-year CMS rate or the 2-year CMS rate on an interest factor determination date, we mean the rate appearing on the Reuters screen ISDAFIX1 page for 30-year or 2-year index maturity, as the case may be, as of approximately 11:00 A.M., New York City

S-23

[Table of Contents](#)

time, on such interest factor determination date. If the CMS rate cannot be determined in this manner, then:

- The applicable CMS rate for the relevant interest factor determination date will be determined on the basis of the mid-market semi-annual swap rate quotations provided by five leading swap dealers in the New York City interbank market at approximately 11:00 A.M., New York City time, on that interest factor determination date. For this purpose, the semi-annual swap rate means the mean of the bid and offered rates for the semi-annual fixed leg, calculated on a 30/360 day count basis, of a fixed-for-floating U.S. dollar interest rate swap transaction with a term equal to 30 years or 2 years, as the case may be, commencing on the relevant interest factor determination date, with an acknowledged dealer of good credit in the swap market, where the floating leg, calculated on an Actual/360 day count basis, is equivalent to LIBOR with a designated maturity of three months, as such rate may be determined in accordance with the provisions set forth under “Description of Notes We May Offer — Interest Rates — LIBOR Notes” in the accompanying prospectus supplement. The calculation agent will select the five swap dealers in its sole discretion and will request the principal New York City office of each of those dealers to provide a quotation of its rate.
- If at least three quotations are provided, the CMS rate for that interest factor determination date will be the arithmetic mean of the quotations described above, eliminating the highest and lowest quotations or, in the event of equality, one of the highest and one of the lowest quotations.
- If fewer than three quotations are provided, the calculation agent will determine the CMS rate for that interest factor determination date in its sole discretion.

Discontinuance or Modification of the Index

If the index sponsor discontinues publication of the index and the index sponsor or anyone else publishes a substitute index that the calculation agent determines is comparable to the index, then the calculation agent will determine the interest payment amount on the relevant interest payment date or the cash settlement amount on the stated maturity date, as applicable, by reference to the substitute index. We refer to any substitute index approved by the calculation agent as a successor index.

If the calculation agent determines on a reference date or the determination date, as applicable, that the publication of the index is discontinued and there is no successor index, the calculation agent will determine the applicable closing level of the index used to determine the interest payment or the cash settlement amount, as applicable, on the related interest payment date or the stated maturity date, as applicable, by a computation methodology that the calculation agent determines will as closely as reasonably possible replicate the index.

If the calculation agent determines that the index, the index stocks or the method of calculating the index is changed at any time in any respect — including any split or reverse split, any addition, deletion or substitution and any reweighting or rebalancing of

the index or of the index stocks and whether the change is made by the index sponsor under its existing policies or following a modification of those policies, is due to the publication of a successor index, is due to events affecting one or more of the index stocks or their issuers or is due to any other reason — and is not otherwise reflected in the level of the index by the index sponsor pursuant to the then-current index methodology of the index, then the calculation agent will be permitted (but not required) to make such adjustments in the index or the method of its calculation as it believes are appropriate to ensure that the levels of the index used to determine the interest payment amount or cash settlement amount, as applicable, on the related interest payment date or the stated maturity date, as applicable, is equitable.

All determinations and adjustments to be made by the calculation agent with respect to the index may be made by the calculation agent in its sole discretion. The calculation agent is not obligated to make any such adjustments.

S-24

[Table of Contents](#)

Default Amount on Acceleration

If an event of default occurs and the maturity of your notes is accelerated, we will pay the default amount in respect of the principal of your notes at the maturity, instead of the amount payable on the stated maturity date as described earlier. We describe the default amount under “— Special Calculation Provisions” below.

For the purpose of determining whether the holders of our Series D medium-term notes, which include your notes, are entitled to take any action under the indenture, we will treat the outstanding face amount of your notes as the outstanding principal amount of that note. Although the terms of the offered notes differ from those of the other Series D medium-term notes, holders of specified percentages in principal amount of all Series D medium-term notes, together in some cases with other series of our debt securities, will be able to take action affecting all the Series D medium-term notes, including your notes, except with respect to certain Series D medium-term notes if the terms of such notes specify that the holders of specified percentages in principal amount of all of such notes must also consent to such action. This action may involve changing some of the terms that apply to the Series D medium-term notes, accelerating the maturity of the Series D medium-term notes after a default or waiving some of our obligations under the indenture. In addition, certain changes to the indenture and the notes that only affect certain debt securities may be made with the approval of holders of a majority in principal amount of such affected debt securities. We discuss these matters in the accompanying prospectus under “Description of Debt Securities We May Offer — Default, Remedies and Waiver of Default” and “— Modification of the Debt Indentures and Waiver of Covenants”.

Manner of Payment

Any payment on your notes at maturity or upon redemption will be made to an account designated by the holder of your notes and approved by us, or at the office of the trustee in New York City, but only when your notes are surrendered to the trustee at that office. We may pay interest on any interest payment date by check mailed to the person who is the holder on the regular record date. We also may make any payment in accordance with the applicable procedures of the depository.

Modified Business Day

As described in the accompanying prospectus, any payment on your notes that would otherwise be due on a day that is not a business day may instead be paid on the next day that is a business day, with the same effect as if paid on the original due date. For your notes, however, the term business day may have a different meaning than it does for other Series D medium-term notes. We discuss this term under “— Special Calculation Provisions” below.

Role of Calculation Agent

The calculation agent in its sole discretion will make all determinations regarding the index, the CMS spread, the 30-year CMS rate, the 2-year CMS rate, the regular record dates, the reference dates, the interest rate on each interest payment date, the interest payable on each interest payment date, business days, U.S. Government securities business days, trading days, interest factor determination dates, interest determination dates, whether a market disruption event occurs, postponement of the determination date, any interest payment date or the stated maturity date and the amount of cash payable on your notes at maturity or redemption, as applicable. Absent manifest error, all determinations of the calculation agent will be final and binding on you and us, without any liability on the part of the calculation agent.

Please note that GS&Co., our affiliate, is currently serving as the calculation agent as of the date of this prospectus supplement. We may change the calculation agent for your notes at any time after the date of this prospectus supplement without

notice and GS&Co. may resign as calculation agent at any time upon 60 days' written notice to Goldman Sachs.

Our Early Redemption Right

We may redeem your notes, at our option, in whole but not in part, on the interest payment date that will fall on November 30, 2016 and on each interest payment date occurring thereafter, for an amount

S-25

[Table of Contents](#)

equal to 100% of the face amount *plus* any accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the redemption date.

If we choose to exercise our early redemption right described in this prospectus supplement, we will notify the holder of your notes and the trustee by giving ten business days' prior notice. The day we give the notice, which will be a business day, will be the redemption notice date and the immediately following interest payment date, which we will state in the redemption notice, will be the redemption date. We will not give a redemption notice that results in a redemption date later than the stated maturity date.

If we give the holder a redemption notice, we will redeem the entire outstanding face amount of your notes as follows. On the redemption date, we will pay to the holder of record on the tenth business day immediately preceding the redemption date, the redemption price in cash, together with any accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the redemption date, in the manner described under "Manner of Payment" above.

Special Calculation Provisions

Business Day

When we refer to a business day with respect to your notes, we mean a day that is a New York business day as described under "Description of Debt Securities We May Offer — Payment Mechanics for Debt Securities — Business Days" on page 28 in the accompanying prospectus.

U.S. Government securities business day

When we refer to a U.S. Government securities business day with respect to your notes, we mean any day except for a Saturday, Sunday or a day on which the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association recommends that the fixed income department of its members be closed for the entire day for purposes of trading in U.S. government securities.

Trading Day

When we refer to a trading day with respect to your notes, we mean a day on which the respective principal securities markets for all of the index stocks are open for trading, the index sponsor is open for business and the index is calculated and published by the index sponsor. A day is a scheduled trading day with respect to the index if, as of the trade date, the index sponsor is scheduled to be open for business, the index is expected to be calculated and published and the respective principal securities markets for all of its index stocks are scheduled to be open for trading.

Closing Level

The closing level of the index on any trading day will be the closing level of the index or any successor index reported by Bloomberg Financial Services, or any successor reporting service we may select, on such trading day for such index. Currently, whereas the index sponsor publishes the official closing level of the index to six decimal places, Bloomberg Financial Services reports the closing level of the index to fewer decimal places. As a result, the closing level of the index reported by Bloomberg Financial Services generally may be lower or higher than the official closing level of the index published by the index sponsor.

Default Amount

The default amount for your notes on any day (except as provided in the last sentence under "—Default Quotation Period" below) will be an amount, in the specified currency for the principal of your notes, equal to the cost of having a qualified financial institution, of the kind and selected as described below, expressly assume all of our payment and other obligations with respect to your notes as of that day and as if no default or acceleration had occurred, or to undertake other obligations providing substantially

equivalent economic value to you with respect to your notes. That cost will equal:

- the lowest amount that a qualified financial institution would charge to effect this assumption or undertaking, *plus*

S-26

[Table of Contents](#)

- the reasonable expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees, incurred by the holder of your notes in preparing any documentation necessary for this assumption or undertaking.

During the default quotation period for your notes, which we describe below, the holder and/or we may request a qualified financial institution to provide a quotation of the amount it would charge to effect this assumption or undertaking. If either party obtains a quotation, it must notify the other party in writing of the quotation. The amount referred to in the first bullet point above will equal the lowest — or, if there is only one, the only — quotation obtained, and as to which notice is so given, during the default quotation period. With respect to any quotation, however, the party not obtaining the quotation may object, on reasonable and significant grounds, to the assumption or undertaking by the qualified financial institution providing the quotation and notify the other party in writing of those grounds within two business days after the last day of the default quotation period, in which case that quotation will be disregarded in determining the default amount.

Default Quotation Period

The default quotation period is the period beginning on the day the default amount first becomes due and ending on the third business day after that day, unless:

- no quotation of the kind referred to above is obtained during such period, or
- every quotation of that kind obtained is objected to within five business days after the day the default amount first becomes due.

If either of these two events occurs, the default quotation period will continue until the third business day after the first business day on which prompt notice of a quotation is given as described above. If that quotation is objected to as described above within five business days after that first business day, however, the default quotation period will continue as described in the prior sentence and this sentence.

In any event, if the default quotation period and the subsequent two business day objection period have not ended before the final interest determination date, then the default amount will equal the principal amount of your notes.

Qualified Financial Institutions

For the purpose of determining the default amount at any time, a qualified financial institution must be a financial institution organized under the laws of any jurisdiction in the United States of America, Europe or Japan, which at that time has outstanding debt obligations with a stated maturity of one year or less from the date of issue and that is, or whose securities are, rated either:

- A-1 or higher by Standard & Poor's Ratings Services or any successor, or any other comparable rating then used by that rating agency, or
- P-1 or higher by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. or any successor, or any other comparable rating then used by that rating agency.

Market Disruption Event

With respect to any given trading day, any of the following will be a market disruption event:

- a suspension, absence or material limitation of trading in index stocks constituting 20% or more, by weight, of the index on their respective primary markets, in each case for more than two consecutive hours of trading or during the one-half hour before the close of trading in that market, as determined by the calculation agent in its sole discretion, or
- a suspension, absence or material limitation of trading in option or futures contracts relating to the index or to index stocks constituting 20% or more, by weight, of the index in the respective primary markets for those contracts, in each case for more than two consecutive hours of trading or during the one-half hour before the close of trading in that market, as determined by the calculation agent in its sole discretion, or
- index stocks constituting 20% or more, by weight, of the index, or option or futures contracts, if available, relating to the index or to index stocks constituting 20% or more, by weight, of the index

[Table of Contents](#)

are not trading on what were the respective primary markets for those index stocks or contracts, as determined by the calculation agent in its sole discretion,

and, in the case of any of these events, the calculation agent determines in its sole discretion that the event could materially interfere with the ability of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. or any of its affiliates or a similarly situated party to unwind all or a material portion of a hedge that could be effected with respect to the offered notes. For more information about hedging by The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and/or any of its affiliates, see “Use of Proceeds” and “Hedging” below.

The following events will not be market disruption events:

- a limitation on the hours or numbers of days of trading, but only if the limitation results from an announced change in the regular business hours of the relevant market, and
- a decision to permanently discontinue trading in option or futures contracts relating to the index or to any index stock.

For this purpose, an “absence of trading” in the primary securities market on which an index stock, or on which option or futures contracts relating to the index or an index stock are traded will not include any time when that market is itself closed for trading under ordinary circumstances. In contrast, a suspension or limitation of trading in an index stock or in option or futures contracts, if available, relating to the index or an index stock in the primary market for that stock or those contracts, by reason of:

- a price change exceeding limits set by that market,
- an imbalance of orders relating to that index stock or those contracts, or
- a disparity in bid and ask quotes relating to that index stock or those contracts,

will constitute a suspension or material limitation of trading in that stock or those contracts in that market.

As is the case throughout this prospectus supplement, references to the index in this description of market disruption events includes the index and any successor index as it may be modified, replaced or adjusted from time to time.

[Table of Contents](#)

USE OF PROCEEDS

We will use the net proceeds we receive from the sale of the offered notes for the purposes we describe in the accompanying prospectus under “Use of Proceeds”.

HEDGING

In anticipation of the sale of the offered notes, we and/or our affiliates have entered into or expect to enter into hedging transactions involving purchases of futures and other instruments linked to the index and/or the CMS rates on or before the trade date. In addition, from time to time after we issue the offered notes, we and/or our affiliates may enter into additional hedging transactions and unwind those we have entered into, in connection with the offered notes and perhaps in connection with other index-linked notes we issue, some of which may have returns linked to the index, the index stocks or the CMS rates. Consequently, with regard to your notes, from time to time, we and/or our affiliates:

- expect to acquire, or dispose of positions in listed or over-the-counter options, futures or other instruments linked to the index, some or all of the index stocks or the CMS rates,
- may take or dispose of positions in the securities of the index stock issuers themselves,

- may take or dispose of positions in listed or over-the-counter options or other instruments based on indices designed to track the performance of the New York Stock Exchange or other components of the U.S. equity market,
- may take short positions in the index stocks or other securities of the kind described above — i.e., we and/or our affiliates may sell securities of the kind that we do not own or that we borrow for delivery to purchaser, and/or
- may take or dispose of positions in interest rate swaps, options swaps and treasury bonds.

We and/or our affiliates may acquire a long or short position in securities similar to your notes from time to time and may, in our or their sole discretion, hold or resell those securities.

In the future, we and/or our affiliates expect to close out hedge positions relating to the offered notes and perhaps relating to other notes with returns linked to the index, the index stocks or the CMS rates. We expect these steps to involve sales of instruments linked to the index and/or the CMS rates on or shortly before the determination date. These steps may also involve sales and/or purchases of some or all of the index stocks, or listed or over-the-counter options, futures or other instruments linked to the index, some or all of the index stocks or indices designed to track the performance of the New York Stock Exchange or other components of the U.S. equity market or the CMS rates.

The hedging activity discussed above may adversely affect the market value of your notes from time to time and the amount we will pay on your notes at maturity. See “Additional Risk Factors Specific to Your Notes” above for a discussion of these adverse effects.

S-29

[Table of Contents](#)

THE INDEX

The Russell 2000® Index is an index calculated, published and disseminated by Russell Investment Group (“Russell”) that measures the composite price performance of stocks of 2,000 companies in the U.S. equity market. It is generally considered to be a “small-cap” index. Additional information about the Russell 2000® Index is available on the following website: http://www.russell.com/Indexes/data/fact_sheets/us/Russell_2000_Index.asp. We are not incorporating by reference the website or any material it includes in this prospectus supplement.

As of November 19, 2015, the 2,000 companies included in the Russell 2000® Index were divided into nine Russell Global Sectors. The Russell Global Sectors include (with the approximate percentage currently included in such sectors indicated in parentheses): Consumer Discretionary (14.04%), Consumer Staples (3.19%), Financial Services (26.87%), Health Care (15.56%), Materials & Processing (5.88%), Other Energy (2.59%), Producer Durables (12.16%), Technology (14.85%) and Utilities (4.86%). (Sector designations are determined by the index sponsor using criteria it has selected or developed. Index sponsors may use very different standards for determining sector designations. In addition, many companies operate in a number of sectors, but are listed in only one sector and the basis on which that sector is selected may also differ. As a result, sector comparisons between indices with different index sponsors may reflect differences in methodology as well as actual differences in the sector composition of the indices.)

The index includes approximately 2,000 of the smallest securities that form the Russell 3000® Index. The Russell 3000® Index is comprised of the 3,000 largest companies, or 98% based on market capitalization, of the investable U.S. equity market. The Russell 2000® Index represents approximately 10% of the total market capitalization of the Russell 3000® Index. The Russell 2000® Index is designed to track the performance of the small capitalization segment of the U.S. equity market.

Selection of Constituent Stocks of the Russell 2000® Index

The Russell 2000® Index is a sub-index of the Russell 3000® Index. To be eligible for inclusion in the Russell 3000® Index, and, consequently, the Russell 2000® Index, a company’s stocks must be listed on the last trading day of May of a given year and Russell must have access to documentation verifying the company’s eligibility for inclusion. Eligible initial public offerings are added to Russell U.S. Indices at the end of each calendar quarter, based on total market capitalization rankings within the market-adjusted capitalization breaks established during the most recent reconstitution. To be added to any Russell U.S. index during a quarter outside of reconstitution, initial public offerings must meet additional eligibility criteria.

A company is included in the U.S. equity markets and is eligible for inclusion in the Russell 3000® Index, and consequently,

the Russell 2000® Index, if that company incorporates in, has its headquarters in and also trades in the United States. If a company does not satisfy all of the above criteria, it can still be included in the U.S. equity market if any one of the following home country indicators is in the United States: (i) country of incorporation, (ii) country of headquarters and (iii) country in which the company trades with the highest liquidity (as defined by a two-year average daily dollar trading volume from all exchanges within the country), and the primary location of that company's assets or its revenue, based on an average of two years of assets or revenues data, is also in the United States. In addition, if there is insufficient information to assign a company to the U.S. equity markets based on its assets or revenue, the company may nonetheless be assigned to the U.S. equity markets if the headquarters of the company is located in the United States or if the headquarters of the company is located in certain "benefit-driven incorporation countries", or "BDIs", and that company's most liquid stock exchange is in the United States. The BDI countries are Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Bonaire, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Channel Islands, Cook Islands, Curaçao, Faroe Islands, Gibraltar, Isle of Man, Liberia, Marshall Islands, Panama, Saba, Sint Eustatius, Sint Maarten and Turks and Caicos Islands. ADRs and ADSs are not eligible for inclusion in the Russell 2000® Index.

S-30

[Table of Contents](#)

Exclusions from the Russell 2000® Index

Russell specifically excludes the following companies and securities from the Russell 2000® Index: (i) preferred and convertible preferred stock, redeemable shares, participating preferred stock, warrants, rights and trust receipts; (ii) royalty trusts, U.S. limited liability companies, closed-end investment companies, business development companies, blank check companies, special-purpose acquisition companies and limited partnerships; (iii) companies with a total market capitalization less than \$30 million; (iv) companies with only a small portion of their shares available in the marketplace (companies with 5% or less float); (v) bulletin board, pink sheets or over-the-counter traded securities; and (vi) real estate investment trusts and publicly traded partnerships that generate, or have historically generated, unrelated business taxable income and have not taken steps to block their unrelated business taxable income to equity holders.

Initial List of Eligible Securities

The primary criterion Russell uses to determine the initial list of securities eligible for the Russell 3000® Index and, consequently, the Russell 2000® Index, is total market capitalization, which is calculated by multiplying the total outstanding shares for a company by the market price as of the last trading day in May for those securities being considered at annual reconstitution. IPOs may be added between constitutions as noted below. All common stock share classes are combined in determining market capitalization. If multiple share classes have been combined, the price of the primary vehicle (usually the most liquid) is used in the calculations. In cases where the common stock share classes act independently of each other (e.g., tracking stocks), each class is considered for inclusion separately. Stocks must trade at or above \$1.00 on their primary exchange on the last trading day of May of each year to be eligible for inclusion in the Russell 2000® Index. In order to reduce unnecessary turnover, if an existing member's closing price is less than \$1.00 on the last trading day of May, it will be considered eligible if the average of the daily closing prices from their primary exchange during the month of May is equal to or greater than \$1.00.

Russell will evaluate multiple share classes of a company independently for inclusion in the Russell 2000® Index. In order for a share class to be included independently of the company's primary vehicle, it must meet market capitalization, average daily dollar trading value and float requirements. Where an additional share class does not meet the requirements, the shares will be aggregated with the primary vehicle. If a company distributes an additional share class to existing shareholders through a mandatory corporate action or to the public through an IPO, the additional share class will be reviewed for independent inclusion at the time of distribution and if the share class is not eligible at the time of distribution, it will be reviewed again for independent inclusion at the next reconstitution.

Annual Reconstitution

The Russell 2000® Index is reconstituted annually by Russell to reflect changes in the marketplace. The list of companies is ranked based on total market capitalization on the last trading day in May, with the actual reconstitution effective on the first trading day following the final Friday of June each year, unless the final Friday in June is the 29th or 30th, in which case reconstitution will be effective on the preceding Friday. A full calendar for reconstitution is made available each spring. Changes in the constituents are preannounced and subject to change if any corporate activity occurs or if any new information is received prior to release.

Index Calculation and Capitalization Adjustments

As a capitalization-weighted index, the Russell 2000® Index reflects changes in the capitalization, or market value, of the

index stocks relative to the capitalization on a base date. This discussion describes the “price return” calculation of the Russell 2000® Index. The current Russell 2000® Index value is the compounded result of the cumulative daily (or monthly) return percentages, where the starting value of the index is equal to the base value (100) and base date (December 31, 1978). Returns between

S-31

[Table of Contents](#)

any two dates can then be derived by dividing the ending period index value (IV_1) by the beginning period (IV_0) index value, so that the return equals $[(IV_1 / IV_0) - 1] * 100$. The ending period index value, for purposes of calculating the Russell 2000® Index value, on any date is determined by adding the market values of the index stocks, which are derived by multiplying the price of each stock by the number of available shares, to arrive at the total market capitalization of the 2,000 stocks. To calculate the Russell 2000® Index, last sale prices will be used for exchange-traded and NASDAQ stocks. In the event of a market disruption resulting in any index stock price to be unavailable, Russell will generally use the last reported price for such index stock for the purpose of performance calculation.

Constituent stocks of the index are weighted in the Russell 2000® Index by their free-float market capitalization, which is calculated by multiplying the primary closing price by the number of free-float shares. Free-float shares are shares that are available to the public for purchase as determined by Russell. Russell determines shares available to the public for purchase based on information recorded in corporate filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission and other reliable sources in the event of missing or questionable data. Adjustments to shares are reviewed at reconstitution and for major corporate actions such as mergers. Russell removes the following types of shares from total market capitalization to arrive at free-float market capitalization:

Corporate cross-owned shares — shares of a company in the index that are held by another company that is included in any other Russell index;

Large private and corporate holdings — shares held by an individual, a group of individuals acting together (e.g., the officers/directors group) or another listed corporation (that is not included in the index) if such shareholdings constitute 10% or more of the shares outstanding. Institutional holdings, including investment companies, partnerships, insurance companies, mutual funds, banks or venture capital firms, are not excluded unless the firm has a direct relationship to the company, such as board representation, in which case they are considered strategic holdings and included with the officers/directors group in calculating the 10% threshold;

ESOP or LESOP shares — shares held by employee stock ownership plans and leveraged employee stock ownership plans that comprise 10% or more of a company's outstanding shares;

Unlisted share classes — classes of common stock that are not traded on a U.S. securities exchange;

Initial public offering lock-ups — shares locked-up during an initial public offering are not available to the public and will be excluded from the market value at the time the initial public offering enters the index; and

Government holdings — shareholdings listed as “government of”. Shares held by government investment boards and/or investment arms are treated like shares held by large private shareholdings and are excluded if the number of shares is greater than 10% of outstanding shares. Shares held by a government pension plan are considered institutional holdings and will not be excluded.

Corporate Actions Affecting the Index

Russell adjusts the index on a daily basis in response to certain corporate actions and events. Therefore, a company's membership in the index and its weight in the index can be impacted by these corporate actions. The adjustment is applied based on sources of public information, including press releases and Securities and Exchange Commission filings. Prior to the completion of a corporate action or event, Russell estimates the effective date. Russell will then adjust the anticipated effective date based on public information until the date is considered final. Depending on the time on a given day that an action is determined to be final, Russell will generally either (1) apply the action before the open on the ex-date or (2) apply the action after providing appropriate notice to its clients regarding the impact of the

S-32

[Table of Contents](#)

action and the effective date. If Russell has confirmed the completion of a corporate action, scheduled to become effective subsequent to a rebalance, the event may be implemented in conjunction with the rebalance to limit turnover, provided appropriate notice can be given. Russell applies the following methodology guidelines when adjusting the index in response to corporate actions and events:

“No Replacement” Rule — Securities that are deleted from the Index between reconstitution dates, for any reason (e.g., mergers, acquisitions or other similar corporate activity) are not replaced. Thus, the number of securities in the Index over the past year will fluctuate according to corporate activity.

Mergers and Acquisitions

Adjustments due to mergers and acquisitions are applied to the index after the action is determined to be final. Deletions due to cash acquisitions may not require delisting confirmation from the exchange, provided all other conditions (regulatory & shareholder) have been achieved.

Between constituents: When mergers and acquisitions take place between companies that are both constituents of a Russell index, the target company is deleted and its market capitalization simultaneously moves to the acquiring company’s stock. Russell categorizes the surviving entity based on a weighted average of the market value of the two companies prior to the merger using market values as of the day immediately before Russell determines that the action or event is final. Given sufficient market hours after confirmation, Russell effects this action after the close on the last day of trade of the target company.

Between a constituent and a non-constituent: If the target company is a member of the Russell 2000® Index, it is deleted from the index after Russell determines that the action or event is final. If the acquiring company is a member of the Russell 2000® Index, its shares are adjusted by adding the target company’s market capitalization. If the target company is not a member of a Russell index, Russell will also analyze the transaction to determine whether it constitutes a reverse merger. A reverse merger occurs when the acquiring company is a private, non-publicly traded company or OTC company, and the acquisition results in a transaction whereby a new publicly traded company is created that meets all of the requirements for inclusion in a Russell index based on market capitalization using the opening price on the day after the merger or acquisition is considered final. In such a case, the newly formed entity will be placed in the Russell 2000® Index, if appropriate, and the target company will be simultaneously removed from the Russell 2000® Index, after the close of the market on the day after the merger is considered final. If the event does not qualify as a reverse merger, the target company is deleted after the action is determined to be final.

Reincorporation — Members of a Russell U.S. index, like the Russell 2000® Index, that reincorporate to another country and continue to trade in the United States and companies that reincorporate to the United States during the year are analyzed for assignment by Russell during annual reconstitution. Members that reincorporate in another country and no longer trade in the United States are immediately deleted from the Russell U.S. indices.

Rights Offerings — Rights offered to shareholders are reflected in the index only if the subscription price of the rights is at a discount to the market price. Provided that Russell has been alerted to the rights offer prior to the ex-date, it will adjust the price of the stock for the value of the rights and increased shares according to the terms of the offering before the open on the ex-date. If Russell is unable to provide prior notice, it will delay the price adjustment until the appropriate notice has been given. This treatment applies for both transferable and non-transferable rights. Rights issued as part of a poison pill arrangement or entitlements that give shareholders the right to purchase ineligible securities such as convertible debt are excluded from this treatment.

Spin-offs— Spun-off companies are added to the parent company’s index if the spun-off company meets all the eligibility requirements of the index and its total market capitalization is greater

[Table of Contents](#)

than the market-adjusted total market capitalization of the smallest company in the Russell 3000E™ Index at the latest reconstitution. Spun-off companies are added to the index at the same time as they are spun-off from their parent company, which is on the completion date of the spin-off. The parent company’s market value will be reduced simultaneously on the Russell effective date.

Initial Public Offerings — Eligible initial public offerings are added to the Russell 2000® Index at the end of each calendar quarter based on total market capitalization ranking within the market-adjusted capitalization breaks established at the most recent

annual reconstitution, except that fourth quarter IPO additions will be processed after the close on the third Friday of each December.

Once IPO additions have been announced, an IPO may be added to the index prior to the previously announced schedule, if a corporate action has deemed this to be appropriate and notice can be provided (e.g. an index member automatically receives shares via a stock distribution into a projected IPO add).

Tender Offers — A company acquired as a result of a tender offer is removed when (i) the tender offer period completes; (ii) shareholders have validly tendered, not withdrawn, and the shares have been accepted for payment; (iii) all regulatory requirements have been fulfilled; and (iv) the acquiring company is able to finalize the acquisition via a short-form merger, top-up option or other compulsory mechanism. In the case where all the above requirements have been fulfilled except for the acquiring company being able to finalize the acquisition through a compulsory mechanism, Russell will make a share adjustment to the target company's shares, on a date pre-announced by Russell, in cases where the float-adjusted shares have decreased by 30% or more and the tender offer has fully completed and closed. If the acquiring company is issuing stock as part of the tender offer, the float-adjusted shares of that company will be increased concurrently with the decrease in the target company's float-adjusted shares.

Delisted and Halted Stocks — When stocks are deleted from the index as a result of exchange de-listing or reconstitution, the price used will be the closing primary exchange price on the day the action is final (t), or the following day (t+1) using the closing OTC bulletin board price. Halted securities are not removed from the index until the time they are actually delisted from the exchange. If a security is halted, it remains in the index at the most recent closing price until the security resumes trading or is officially delisted. If, however, a stock is (i) halted due to financial difficulty/debt or cash flow issues for a period longer than 40 calendar days or (ii) suspended due to exchange listing rules or legal regulatory issues longer than one calendar quarter, Russell will review for removal on a case-by-case basis. Determinations will be made based upon reasonable likelihood of trade resumption and likelihood of residual value returned to equity holders. If removal is deemed appropriate, Russell will remove the stock at zero value at the end of the month. Stocks that are scheduled for changes but are halted or suspended prior to reconstitution will have their scheduled updates postponed and will be monitored for trade resumption. Once trading resumes, the securities changes will be announced and their positions will be updated accordingly. Usually, notification for these changes will be made on the same day as these changes are made. If sufficient notice is not possible, the updates will be delayed by one day. Securities will be removed from the index using the closing price on the primary exchange of the securities.

Shares acquired in a partial acquisition or tender offer will be reviewed at annual reconstitution for inclusion in free float. Shares that are issued as a result of a partial acquisition or tender offer will be reviewed at month-end for inclusion (if greater than 5%). If a partial acquisition or tender offer includes a corporate action impacting all shareholders, Russell will give effect to the mandatory element of the event.

Bankruptcy and Voluntary Liquidations — Companies that file for a Chapter 7 liquidation bankruptcy or have filed a liquidation plan will be removed from the index at the time of the bankruptcy filing (except when shareholder approval is required to finalize the liquidation plan, in which case the company will be removed once shareholder approval has been granted); whereas companies filing for a Chapter 11 reorganization bankruptcy will remain a member of the index, unless the company is de-listed from the primary exchange, in which case normal de-listing rules apply. If a company files for bankruptcy,

S-34

[Table of Contents](#)

is delisted and it can be confirmed that it will not trade OTC, Russell may remove the stock at a nominal price of \$0.0001.

Stock Distributions — A price adjustment for stock distributions is applied on the ex-date of the distribution. When the number of shares for the distribution is fixed, Russell increases the number of shares on the ex-date. When the number of shares is an undetermined amount based on future earnings and profits, Russell increases the number of shares on the pay-date.

Dividends — Russell includes gross dividends in the daily total return calculation of the index on the basis of their ex-dates. If a dividend is payable in stock and cash and the stock rate cannot be determined by the ex-date, the dividend is treated as all cash. If the number of shares to be issued as a stock dividend is announced subsequently, Russell will give effect to the share change with appropriate notice. Regular cash dividends are reinvested across the index at the close on the dividend ex-date, while special cash dividends are subtracted from the price of the stock before the open on the ex-date.

Updates to Share Capital — Changes to shares outstanding due to buybacks (including Dutch auctions), secondary offerings, merger activity with a non-index member and other potential changes are generally updated at the end of the month in

which the change is reflected in vendor-supplied updates. Russell verifies this information using publicly available information filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Russell only applies such changes if the aggregate change in the number of shares outstanding is greater than 5%. The float factor determined during the most recent annual reconstitution is applied to this figure, and only the available shares will be added to the index. No such changes are made in June due to the most recent annual reconstitution. Month-end changes in November and December will be processed as one event after the close on the third Friday of each December.

License Agreement

Frank Russell Company doing business as Russell Investment Group ("Russell") and Goldman Sachs International have entered into a non-exclusive license agreement, granting The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. ("GS Group"), in exchange for a fee, permission to use the Russell 2000® Index in connection with the offer and sale of the notes. GS Group is not affiliated with Russell; the only relationship between Russell and GS Group is the licensing of the use of the Russell 2000® Index (a trademark of Russell) and trademarks relating to the Russell 2000® Index.

GS Group does not accept any responsibility for the calculation, maintenance or publication of the Russell 2000® Index or any successor index.

The notes are not sponsored, endorsed, sold or promoted by Russell. Russell makes no representation or warranty, express or implied, to the owners of the notes or any member of the public regarding the advisability of investing in securities generally or in the notes particularly or the ability of the Russell 2000® Index to track general stock market performance or a segment of the same. Russell's publication of the Russell 2000® Index in no way suggests or implies an opinion by Russell as to the advisability of investment in any or all of the securities upon which the Russell 2000® Index is based. Russell's only relationship to GS Group is the licensing of certain trademarks and trade names of Russell and of the Russell 2000® Index which is determined, composed and calculated by Russell without regard to GS Group or the notes. Russell is not responsible for and has not reviewed the notes nor any associated literature or publications and Russell makes no representation or warranty express or implied as to their accuracy or completeness, or otherwise. Russell reserves the right, at any time and without notice, to alter, amend, terminate or in any way change the Russell 2000® Index. Russell has no obligation or liability in connection with the administration, marketing or trading of the notes.

RUSSELL DOES NOT GUARANTEE THE ACCURACY AND/OR THE COMPLETENESS OF THE RUSSELL 2000® INDEX OR ANY DATA INCLUDED THEREIN AND RUSSELL SHALL HAVE NO LIABILITY FOR ANY ERRORS, OMISSIONS, OR INTERRUPTIONS THEREIN. RUSSELL MAKES NO WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, AS TO RESULTS TO BE OBTAINED BY GS GROUP, INVESTORS, OWNERS OF THE NOTES, OR ANY OTHER PERSON OR ENTITY FROM THE USE OF THE RUSSELL 2000® INDEX OR ANY DATA INCLUDED THEREIN. RUSSELL MAKES NO EXPRESS

S-35

[Table of Contents](#)

OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, AND EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS ALL WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE WITH RESPECT TO THE RUSSELL 2000® INDEX OR ANY DATA INCLUDED THEREIN. WITHOUT LIMITING ANY OF THE FOREGOING, IN NO EVENT SHALL RUSSELL HAVE ANY LIABILITY FOR ANY SPECIAL, PUNITIVE, INDIRECT, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES (INCLUDING LOST PROFITS), EVEN IF NOTIFIED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES.

Historical Closing Levels of the Index

The closing level of the index has fluctuated in the past and may, in the future, experience significant fluctuations. Any historical upward or downward trend in the closing level of the index during the period shown below is not an indication that the index is more or less likely to increase or decrease at any time during the life of your notes.

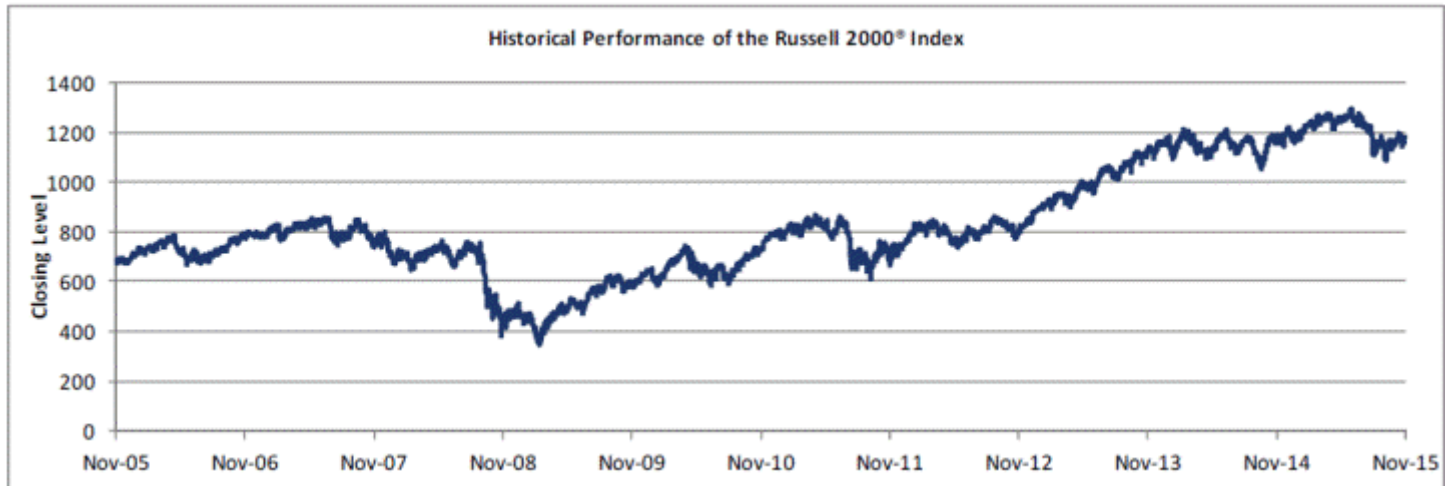
You should not take the historical closing levels of the index as an indication of the future performance of the index. We cannot give you any assurance that the future performance of the index or the index stocks will result in your receiving any interest payment on any interest payment date.

Neither we nor any of our affiliates make any representation to you as to the performance of the index. Before investing in the offered notes, you should consult publicly available information to determine the relevant index levels between the date of this prospectus supplement and the date of your purchase of the offered notes. The actual performance of the index over the life of the offered notes, as well as the cash settlement amount at maturity may bear little relation to the historical levels shown below.

The graph below shows the daily historical closing levels of the index from November 24, 2005 through November 24, 2015. We obtained the closing levels in the graph below from Bloomberg Financial Services, without independent verification. Although the official closing levels of the index are published to six decimal places by the index sponsor, Bloomberg Financial Services reports the levels of the index to fewer decimal places.

S-36

[Table of Contents](#)



S-37

[Table of Contents](#)

HISTORICAL CMS SPREADS

The graph set forth below illustrates the historical CMS spreads from November 24, 2005 through November 24, 2015. We obtained the CMS spreads shown in the graph from Reuters, without independent verification.

The historical CMS spreads reflected in the graph set forth below are based on actual CMS rate movements during the time period. We cannot assure you, however, that this performance will be replicated in the future or that the historical CMS spreads will serve as a reliable indicator of future performance. The CMS spread has fluctuated in the past and may, in the future, experience significant fluctuations. Any historical upward or downward trend in the CMS spread during the period shown below is not an indication that the CMS spread is more or less likely to increase or decrease at any time after the first four interest payment dates. See “Additional Risk Factors Specific to Your Notes — Recent Regulatory Investigations Regarding Potential Manipulation of ISDAfix May Adversely Affect Your Notes” for more information relating to the 30-year CMS rate and the 2-year CMS rate.

You should not take the historical CMS spreads provided below as an indication of the future CMS spreads. We cannot give you any assurance that the future CMS spreads will result in your receiving interest payments after the first four interest payments *greater than* the interest payments you would have received if you invested in a non-indexed debt security of comparable maturity that bears interest at a prevailing market rate. Neither we nor any of our affiliates make any representation to you as to the CMS spread. In light of the increased volatility currently being experienced by the financial services sector and U.S. and global securities markets and recent market declines, it may be substantially more likely that you could receive interest payments less than the interest payments you would have received if you invested in a non-indexed debt security of comparable maturity that bears interest at a prevailing market rate.



S-38

[Table of Contents](#)

SUPPLEMENTAL DISCUSSION OF FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES

The following section supplements the discussion of U.S. federal income taxation in the accompanying prospectus.

The following section is the opinion of Sidley Austin LLP, counsel to The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. It applies to you only if you hold your notes as a capital asset for tax purposes. This section does not apply to you if you are a member of a class of holders subject to special rules, such as:

- a dealer in securities or currencies;
- a trader in securities that elects to use a mark-to-market method of accounting for your securities holdings;
- a bank;
- a life insurance company;
- a tax-exempt organization;
- a partnership;
- a person that owns the notes as a hedge or that is hedged against interest rate risks;
- a person that owns the notes as part of a straddle or conversion transaction for tax purposes; or
- a United States holder (as defined below) whose functional currency for tax purposes is not the U.S. dollar.

This section is based on the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, its legislative history, existing and proposed regulations under the Internal Revenue Code, published rulings and court decisions, all as currently in effect. These laws are subject to change, possibly on a retroactive basis.

You should consult your tax advisor concerning the U.S. federal income tax, and other tax consequences of your investment in the notes, including the application of state, local or other tax laws and the possible effects of changes in federal or other tax laws.

United States Holders

This subsection describes the tax consequences to a United States holder. You are a United States holder if you are a beneficial owner of notes and you are:

- a citizen or resident of the United States;
- a domestic corporation;
- an estate whose income is subject to U.S. federal income tax regardless of its source; or
- a trust if a United States court can exercise primary supervision over the trust's administration and one or more United States persons are authorized to control all substantial decisions of the trust.

If you are not a United States holder, this section does not apply to you and you should refer to “— United States Alien Holders” below.

Tax Treatment. You will be obligated pursuant to the terms of the notes — in the absence of a change in law, an administrative determination or a judicial ruling to the contrary — to characterize your notes for all tax purposes as income-bearing pre-paid derivative contracts in respect of the index. Except as otherwise stated below, the discussion below assumes that the notes will be so treated.

Interest payments that you receive should be included in ordinary income at the time you receive the payment or when the payment accrues, in accordance with your regular method of accounting for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Upon the sale, exchange, redemption or maturity of your notes, you should recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized on the sale, exchange, redemption or maturity (excluding any amounts attributable to accrued and unpaid interest payments, which will be taxable as

S-39

[Table of Contents](#)

described above) and your tax basis in your notes. Your tax basis in your notes will generally be equal to the amount that you paid for the notes. Such capital gain or loss should generally be short-term capital gain or loss if you hold the notes for one year or less, and should be long-term capital gain or loss if you hold the notes for more than one year. Short-term capital gains are generally subject to tax at the marginal tax rates applicable to ordinary income.

No statutory, judicial or administrative authority directly discusses how your notes should be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As a result, the U.S. federal income tax consequences of your investment in the notes are uncertain and alternative characterizations are possible. Accordingly, we urge you to consult your tax advisor in determining the tax consequences of an investment in your notes in your particular circumstances, including the application of state, local or other tax laws and the possible effects of changes in federal or other tax laws.

Alternative Treatments. There is no judicial or administrative authority discussing how your notes should be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Therefore, the Internal Revenue Service might assert that a treatment other than that described above is more appropriate. For example, the Internal Revenue Service could treat your notes as a single debt instrument subject to special rules governing contingent payment debt instruments.

Under those rules, the amount of interest you are required to take into account for each accrual period would be determined by constructing a projected payment schedule for the notes and applying rules similar to those for accruing original issue discount on a hypothetical noncontingent debt instrument with that projected payment schedule. This method is applied by first determining the comparable yield — i.e., the yield at which we would issue a noncontingent fixed rate debt instrument with terms and conditions similar to your notes — and then determining a payment schedule as of the applicable original issue date that would produce the comparable yield. These rules may have the effect of requiring you to include interest in income in respect of your notes prior to your receipt of cash attributable to that income.

If the rules governing contingent payment debt instruments apply, any income you recognize upon the sale, exchange, redemption or maturity of your notes would be treated as ordinary interest income. Any loss you recognize at that time would be treated as ordinary loss to the extent of interest you included as income in the current or previous taxable years in respect of your notes, and, thereafter, as capital loss.

If the rules governing contingent payment debt instruments apply, special rules would apply to persons who purchase a note at other than the adjusted issue price as determined for tax purposes.

It is possible that the Internal Revenue Service could assert that your notes should generally be characterized as described above, except that (1) the gain you recognize upon the sale, exchange, redemption or maturity of your notes should be treated as ordinary income or (2) you should not include the interest payments in income as you receive them but instead you should reduce your basis in your notes by the amount of interest payments that you receive. It is also possible that the Internal Revenue Service could seek to characterize your notes in a manner that results in tax consequences to you different from those described above.

It is also possible that the Internal Revenue Service could seek to characterize your notes as notional principal contracts. It is also possible that the interest payments would not be treated as either ordinary income or interest for U.S. federal income tax purposes, but instead would be treated in some other manner.

You should consult your tax advisor as to possible alternative characterizations of your notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

S-40

[Table of Contents](#)

Possible Change in Law

In 2007, legislation was introduced in Congress that, if enacted, would have required holders that acquired instruments such as your notes after the bill was enacted to accrue interest income over the term of such notes. It is not possible to predict whether a similar or identical bill will be enacted in the future, or whether any such bill would affect the tax treatment of such notes.

In addition, on December 7, 2007, the Internal Revenue Service released a notice stating that the Internal Revenue Service and the Treasury Department are actively considering issuing guidance regarding the proper U.S. federal income tax treatment of an instrument such as the offered notes including whether the holders should be required to accrue ordinary income on a current basis and whether gain or loss should be ordinary or capital. It is not possible to determine what guidance they will ultimately issue, if any. It is possible, however, that under such guidance, holders of the notes will ultimately be required to accrue income currently and this could be applied on a retroactive basis. The Internal Revenue Service and the Treasury Department are also considering other relevant issues, including whether foreign holders of such instruments should be subject to withholding tax on any deemed income accruals and whether the special “constructive ownership rules” of Section 1260 of the Internal Revenue Code might be applied to such instruments. Except to the extent otherwise provided by law, The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. intends to continue treating the notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes in accordance with the treatment described above unless and until such time as Congress, the Treasury Department or the Internal Revenue Service determine that some other treatment is more appropriate.

It is impossible to predict what any such legislation or administrative or regulatory guidance might provide, and whether the effective date of any legislation or guidance will affect notes that were issued before the date that such legislation or guidance is issued. You are urged to consult your tax advisor as to the possibility that any legislative or administrative action may adversely affect the tax treatment of your notes.

United States Alien Holders

This section applies to you only if you are a United States alien holder. You are a United States alien holder if you are the beneficial owner of the notes and are, for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

- a nonresident alien individual;
- a foreign corporation; or
- an estate or trust that in either case is not subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis on income or gain from the notes.

Because the U.S. federal income tax treatment (including the applicability of withholding) of the interest payments on the notes is uncertain, in the absence of further guidance, we intend to withhold on the interest payments made to you at a 30% rate or at a lower rate specified by an applicable income tax treaty under an “other income” or similar provision. We will not make payments of

any additional amounts. To claim a reduced treaty rate for withholding, you generally must provide a valid Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN, Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN-E or an acceptable substitute form upon which you certify, under penalty of perjury, your status as a United States alien holder and your entitlement to the lower treaty rate. Payments will be made to you at a reduced treaty rate of withholding only if such reduced treaty rate would apply to any possible characterization of the payments (including, for example, if the interest payments were characterized as contract fees). Withholding also may not apply to interest payments made to you if: (i) the interest payments are “effectively connected” with your conduct of a trade or business in the United States and are includable in your gross income for U.S. federal income tax purposes, (ii) the interest payments are attributable to a permanent establishment that you maintain in the United States, if required by an applicable tax treaty, and (iii) you comply with the requisite certification requirements (generally, by providing an Internal Revenue Service Form W-8ECI). If you are eligible for a

S-41

[Table of Contents](#)

reduced rate of United States withholding tax, you may obtain a refund of any amounts withheld in excess of that rate by filing a refund claim with the Internal Revenue Service.

“Effectively connected” payments includable in your United States gross income are generally taxed at rates applicable to United States citizens, resident aliens, and domestic corporations; if you are a corporate United States alien holder, “effectively connected” payments may be subject to an additional “branch profits tax” under certain circumstances.

You will also be subject to generally applicable information reporting and backup withholding requirements with respect to payments on your notes at maturity and, notwithstanding that we do not intend to treat the notes as debt for tax purposes, we intend to backup withhold on such payments with respect to your notes unless you comply with the requirements necessary to avoid backup withholding on debt instruments (in which case you will not be subject to such backup withholding) as set forth under “United States Taxation – Taxation of Debt Securities – United States Alien Holders” in the accompanying prospectus.

Furthermore, on December 7, 2007, the Internal Revenue Service released Notice 2008-2 soliciting comments from the public on various issues, including whether instruments such as your notes should be subject to withholding. It is therefore possible that rules will be issued in the future, possibly with retroactive effects, that would cause payments on your notes at maturity to be subject to withholding, even if you comply with certification requirements as to your foreign status.

As discussed above, alternative characterizations of the notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes are possible. Should an alternative characterization of the notes, by reason of a change or clarification of the law, by regulation or otherwise, cause payments at maturity with respect to the notes to become subject to withholding tax, we will withhold tax at the applicable statutory rate and we will not make payments of any additional amounts. Prospective United States alien holders of the notes should consult their tax advisors in this regard.

Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) Withholding

Pursuant to Treasury regulations, Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) withholding (as described in “United States Taxation—Taxation of Debt Securities—Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) Withholding” in the accompanying prospectus) will generally apply to obligations that are issued on or after July 1, 2014; therefore, the notes will generally be subject to FATCA withholding. However, according to published guidance, the withholding tax described above will not apply to payments of gross proceeds from the sale, exchange, redemption or other disposition of the notes made before January 1, 2019.

S-42

[Table of Contents](#)

EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT

This section is only relevant to you if you are an insurance company or the fiduciary of a pension plan or an employee benefit plan (including a governmental plan, an IRA or a Keogh Plan) proposing to invest in the notes.

The U.S. Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (“ERISA”) and the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), prohibit certain transactions (“prohibited transactions”) involving the assets of an employee benefit plan that is subject to the fiduciary responsibility provisions of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code (including individual retirement accounts, Keogh plans and other plans described in Section 4975(e)(1) of the Code) (a “Plan”) and certain persons who are

“parties in interest” (within the meaning of ERISA) or “disqualified persons” (within the meaning of the Code) with respect to the Plan; governmental plans may be subject to similar prohibitions unless an exemption applies to the transaction. The assets of a Plan may include assets held in the general account of an insurance company that are deemed “plan assets” under ERISA or assets of certain investment vehicles in which the Plan invests. Each of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and certain of its affiliates may be considered a “party in interest” or a “disqualified person” with respect to many Plans, and, accordingly, prohibited transactions may arise if the notes are acquired by or on behalf of a Plan unless those notes are acquired and held pursuant to an available exemption. In general, available exemptions are: transactions effected on behalf of that Plan by a “qualified professional asset manager” (prohibited transaction exemption 84-14) or an “in-house asset manager” (prohibited transaction exemption 96-23), transactions involving insurance company general accounts (prohibited transaction exemption 95-60), transactions involving insurance company pooled separate accounts (prohibited transaction exemption 90-1), transactions involving bank collective investment funds (prohibited transaction exemption 91-38) and transactions with service providers under Section 408(b)(17) of ERISA and Section 4975(d)(20) of the Code where the Plan receives no less and pays no more than “adequate consideration” (within the meaning of Section 408(b)(17) of ERISA and Section 4975(f)(10) of the Code). The person making the decision on behalf of a Plan or a governmental plan shall be deemed, on behalf of itself and the plan, by purchasing and holding the notes, or exercising any rights related thereto, to represent that (a) the plan will receive no less and pay no more than “adequate consideration” (within the meaning of Section 408(b)(17) of ERISA and Section 4975(f)(10) of the Code) in connection with the purchase and holding of the notes, (b) none of the purchase, holding or disposition of the notes or the exercise of any rights related to the notes will result in a nonexempt prohibited transaction under ERISA or the Code (or, with respect to a governmental plan, under any similar applicable law or regulation), and (c) neither The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. nor any of its affiliates is a “fiduciary” (within the meaning of Section 3(21) of ERISA) or, with respect to a governmental plan, under any similar applicable law or regulation) with respect to the purchaser or holder in connection with such person’s acquisition, disposition or holding of the notes, or as a result of any exercise by The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. or any of its affiliates of any rights in connection with the notes, and no advice provided by The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. or any of its affiliates has formed a primary basis for any investment decision by or on behalf of such purchaser or holder in connection with the notes and the transactions contemplated with respect to the notes.

If you are an insurance company or the fiduciary of a pension plan or an employee benefit plan (including a government plan, an IRA or a Keogh plan), and propose to invest in the notes, you should consult your legal counsel.

S-43

[Table of Contents](#)

SUPPLEMENTAL PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. has agreed to sell to GS&Co., and GS&Co. has agreed to purchase from The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., the aggregate face amount of the offered notes specified on the front cover of this prospectus supplement. GS&Co. proposes initially to offer the notes to the public at the original issue price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement, and to certain securities dealers at such prices less a concession not in excess of 4.00% of the face amount.

In the future, GS&Co. or other affiliates of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. may repurchase and resell the offered notes in market-making transactions, with resales being made at prices related to prevailing market prices at the time of resale or at negotiated prices. The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. estimates that its share of the total offering expenses, excluding underwriting discounts and commissions, will be approximately \$25,000. For more information about the plan of distribution and possible market-making activities, see “Plan of Distribution” in the accompanying prospectus.

We will deliver the notes against payment therefor in New York, New York on November 30, 2015, which is the third scheduled business day following the date of this prospectus supplement and of the pricing of the notes.

We have been advised by GS&Co. that it intends to make a market in the notes. However, neither GS&Co. nor any of our other affiliates that makes a market is obligated to do so and any of them may stop doing so at any time without notice. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity or trading market for the notes.

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a “Relevant Member State”) with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State (the “Relevant Implementation Date”) an offer of the offered notes which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this prospectus supplement in relation thereto may not be made to the public in that Relevant Member State except that, with effect from and including the Relevant Implementation Date, an offer of such offered notes may be made to the public in that Relevant Member State:

(a) at any time to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive;

(b) at any time to fewer than 150 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive), subject to obtaining the prior consent of the relevant dealer or dealers nominated by the Issuer for any such offer; or

(c) at any time in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive,

provided that no such offer of offered notes shall require us or any dealer to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression an “offer of notes to the public” in relation to any notes in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the notes, as the same may be varied in that Relevant Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Relevant Member State. The expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC (as amended, including by Directive 2010/73/EU) and includes any relevant implementing measure in each Relevant Member State.

GS&Co. has represented and agreed that:

(a) it has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of the FSMA) received by it in connection with the issue or sale of the offered notes in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the FSMA does not apply to The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.; and

(b) it has complied and will comply with all applicable provisions of the FSMA with respect to anything done by it in relation to the notes in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

No advertisement, invitation or document relating to the notes may be issued or may be in the possession of any person for the purpose of issue (in each case whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere), if

S-44

[Table of Contents](#)

such advertisement, invitation or document is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public in Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the securities laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to the offered notes which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside of Hong Kong or only to “professional investors” as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder.

The offered notes have not been and will not be registered under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act of Japan (Act No. 25 of 1948, as amended) or the FIEA. The offered notes may not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to or for the benefit of any resident of Japan (including any person resident in Japan or any corporation or other entity organized under the laws of Japan) or to others for reoffering or resale, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to or for the benefit of any resident of Japan, except pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of the FIEA and otherwise in compliance with any relevant laws and regulations of Japan.

This prospectus supplement, along with the accompanying prospectus supplement and prospectus have not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this prospectus supplement and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the offered notes may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the notes be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor (as defined in Section 274A of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the “SFA”)), (ii) to a relevant person (as defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA) pursuant to Section 275(1) of the SFA, or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A) of the SFA, and in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 275 of the SFA or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA, in each case subject to conditions set forth in the SFA.

Where the offered notes are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 of the SFA by a relevant person which is a corporation (which is not an accredited investor (as defined in Section 4A of the SFA)) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor, the securities (as defined in Section 239(1) of the SFA) of that corporation shall not be transferred except: (1) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the SFA or to a relevant person (as defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA), (2) where such transfer arises from an offer in that corporation’s securities pursuant to Section 275(1A) of the SFA, (3) where no consideration is or will be given for the transfer, (4) as specified in Section 276(7) of the SFA, or (5) as specified in Regulation 32 of the Securities and Futures (Offers of Investments) (Shares and Debentures) Regulations 2005 of Singapore (“Regulation 32”).

Where the offered notes are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 of the SFA by a relevant person which is a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary of the trust is an accredited investor, the beneficiaries' rights and interest (howsoever described) in that trust shall not be transferable for six months after that trust has acquired the offered notes under Section 275 of the SFA except: (1) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the SFA or to a relevant person (as defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA), (2) where such transfer arises from an offer that is made on terms that such rights or interest are acquired at a consideration of not less than S\$200,000 (or its equivalent in a foreign currency) for each transaction (whether such amount is to be paid for in cash or by exchange of securities or other assets), (3) where no consideration is or will be given for the transfer, (4) where the transfer is by operation of law, (5) as specified in Section 276(7) of the SFA, or (6) as specified in Regulation 32.

Conflicts of Interest

GS& Co. is an affiliate of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and, as such, will have a "conflict of interest" in this offering of notes within the meaning of Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (FINRA) Rule 5121. Consequently, this offering of notes will be conducted in compliance with the provisions of FINRA Rule 5121. GS&Co. will not be permitted to sell notes in this offering to an account over which it exercises discretionary authority without the prior specific written approval of the account holder.

S-45

[Table of Contents](#)

VALIDITY OF THE NOTES

In the opinion of Sidley Austin LLP, as counsel to The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., when the notes offered by this prospectus supplement have been executed and issued by The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and authenticated by the trustee pursuant to the indenture, and delivered against payment as contemplated herein, such notes will be valid and binding obligations of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., enforceable in accordance with their terms, subject to applicable bankruptcy, insolvency and similar laws affecting creditors' rights generally, concepts of reasonableness and equitable principles of general applicability (including, without limitation, concepts of good faith, fair dealing and the lack of bad faith), provided that such counsel expresses no opinion as to the effect of fraudulent conveyance, fraudulent transfer or similar provision of applicable law on the conclusions expressed above. This opinion is given as of the date hereof and is limited to the Federal laws of the United States, the laws of the State of New York and the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware as in effect on the date hereof. In addition, this opinion is subject to customary assumptions about the trustee's authorization, execution and delivery of the indenture and the genuineness of signatures and certain factual matters, all as stated in the letter of such counsel dated September 15, 2014, which has been filed as Exhibit 5.5 to The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.'s registration statement on Form S-3 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 15, 2014.

S-46

[Table of Contents](#)

We have not authorized anyone to provide any information or to make any representations other than those contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. We take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give you. This prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is an offer to sell only the notes offered hereby, but only under the circumstances and in jurisdictions where it is lawful to do so. The information contained in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is current only as of the respective dates of such documents.

\$2,960,000

TABLE OF CONTENTS
Prospectus Supplement

[Summary Information](#)
[Hypothetical Examples](#)
[Additional Risk Factors Specific to Your Notes](#)
[Specific Terms of Your Notes](#)
[Use of Proceeds](#)

Page
S-2
S-5
S-10
S-20
S-29

**The Goldman Sachs Group,
Inc.**

Callable CMS Spread and Russell 2000® Index-

Hedging	S-29
The Index	S-30
Supplemental Discussion of Federal Income Tax Consequences	S-39
Employee Retirement Income Security Act	S-43
Supplemental Plan of Distribution	S-44
Conflicts of Interest	S-45
Validity of the Notes	S-46

Prospectus Supplement dated September 15, 2014

Use of Proceeds	S-2
Description of Notes We May Offer	S-3
Considerations Relating to Indexed Notes	S-19
United States Taxation	S-22
Employee Retirement Income Security Act	S-23
Supplemental Plan of Distribution	S-24
Validity of the Notes	S-26

Prospectus dated September 15, 2014

Available Information	2
Prospectus Summary	4
Use of Proceeds	8
Description of Debt Securities We May Offer	9
Description of Warrants We May Offer	39
Description of Purchase Contracts We May Offer	56
Description of Units We May Offer	61
Description of Preferred Stock We May Offer	67
Description of Capital Stock of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.	75
Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance	80
Considerations Relating to Floating Rate Securities	85
Considerations Relating to Indexed Securities	87
Considerations Relating to Securities Denominated or Payable in or Linked to a Non-U.S. Dollar Currency	88
United States Taxation	91
Plan of Distribution	114
Conflicts of Interest	117
Employee Retirement Income Security Act	118
Validity of the Securities	119
Experts	119
Review of Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements by Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	120
Cautionary Statement Pursuant to the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995	120

Linked Range Accrual Notes due 2030



Goldman, Sachs & Co.