

Discovery Communications, Inc.
Form S-8
May 24, 2011

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 24, 2011

Registration No. 333-_____

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

FORM S-8
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

Discovery Communications, Inc.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Delaware
(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation or Organization)

35-2333914
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

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One Discovery Place

Silver Spring, Maryland
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

20910
(Zip Code)

2011 Employee Stock Purchase Plan

(Full Title of the Plan)

Bruce L. Campbell

Discovery Communications, Inc.

One Discovery Place

Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

(Name and Address of Agent For Service)

(240) 662-2000

(Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Agent For Service)

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

Large accelerated filer ☒

Accelerated filer ☐

Non-accelerated filer ☐ (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Smaller reporting company ☐

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Securities	Amount to be Registered(1)	Proposed Maximum	Proposed Maximum	Amount of Registration Fee
to be Registered				

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		Offering Price	Aggregate	
		Per Share	Offering Price	
Common Stock, \$0.01 par value per share	5,000,000 shares(2)	\$43.67(3)	\$218,350,000(3)	\$25,351

- (1) In accordance with Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this registration statement shall be deemed to cover any additional securities that may from time to time be offered or issued to prevent dilution resulting from stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions.
- (2) Consists of 5,000,000 shares issuable under the 2011 Employee Stock Purchase Plan.
- (3) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rules 457(c) and 457(h) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and based upon the average of the high and low prices of the Registrant's Common Stock as reported on the Nasdaq Global Select Market on May 23, 2011.

PART I

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE SECTION 10(a) PROSPECTUS

Item 1. Plan Information.

The information required by Item 1 is included in documents sent or given to participants in the plans covered by this registration statement pursuant to Rule 428(b)(1) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act).

Item 2. Registrant Information and Employee Plan Annual Information.

The written statement required by Item 2 is included in documents sent or given to participants in the plans covered by this registration statement pursuant to Rule 428(b)(1) of the Securities Act.

PART II

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference.

The registrant is subject to the informational and reporting requirements of Sections 13(a), 14, and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), and in accordance therewith files reports, proxy statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the Commission). The following documents, which are on file with the Commission, are incorporated in this registration statement by reference:

(a) The registrant's latest annual report filed pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act or the latest prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) under the Securities Act that contains audited financial statements for the registrant's latest fiscal year for which such statements have been filed.

(b) All other reports filed pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act since the end of the fiscal year covered by the document referred to in (a) above.

(c) The description of the securities contained in the registrant's registration statement on Form 8-A filed under the Exchange Act, including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

All documents subsequently filed by the registrant pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act, prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all securities offered hereby have been sold or which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this registration statement and to be part hereof from the date of the filing of such documents. Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for the purposes of this registration statement to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this registration statement.

Item 4. Description of Securities.

Not applicable.

Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel.

Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP (WilmerHale) has opined as to the legality of the securities being offered by this registration statement.

Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law (DGCL) provides, generally, that a corporation shall have the power to indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding (except actions by or in the right of the corporation) by reason of the fact that such person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation against all expenses, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with such action, suit or proceeding if such person acted in good faith and in a manner such person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful. A corporation may similarly indemnify such person for expenses actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with the defense or settlement of any action or suit by or in the right of the corporation, provided that such person acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, and, in the case of claims, issues and matters as to which such person shall have been adjudged liable to the corporation, provided that a court shall have determined, upon application, that, despite the adjudication of liability but in view of all of the circumstances of the case, such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses which such court shall deem proper.

Section 102(b)(7) of the DGCL provides, generally, that the certificate of incorporation may contain a provision eliminating or limiting the personal liability of a director to the corporation or its shareholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, provided that such provision may not eliminate or limit the liability of a director (i) for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the corporation or its shareholders, (ii) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (iii) under section 174 of Title 8 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, or (iv) for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit. No such provision may eliminate or limit the liability of a director for any act or omission occurring prior to the date when such provision became effective.

Article V, Section E of the Restated Certificate of Incorporation (the Charter) of the registrant provides as follows:

1. *Limitation On Liability.* To the fullest extent permitted by the DGCL as the same exists or may hereafter be amended, a director of Discovery shall not be liable to Discovery or any of its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director. Any amendment, repeal or modification of this paragraph 1 shall be prospective only and shall not adversely affect any limitation, right or protection of a director of Discovery existing at the time of such amendment, repeal or modification.

2. *Indemnification.*

(a) *Right to Indemnification.* Discovery shall indemnify and hold harmless, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law as it presently exists or may hereafter be amended, any person who was or is made or is threatened to be made a party or is otherwise involved in any action, suit or proceeding,

whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (a proceeding) by reason of the fact that he, or a person for whom he is the legal representative, is or was a director or officer of Discovery or while a director or officer of Discovery is or was serving at the request of Discovery as a director, officer, employee, representative or agent of another corporation or of a partnership, joint venture, limited liability company, trust, enterprise or nonprofit entity, including service with respect to employee benefit plans, against all liability and loss suffered and expenses (including attorneys' fees) incurred by such person. Such right of indemnification shall inure whether or not the claim asserted is based on matters that antedate the adoption of Article V, Section E of the Charter. Discovery shall be required to indemnify or make advances to a person in connection with a proceeding (or part thereof) initiated by such person only if the proceeding (or part thereof) was authorized by the board of directors of Discovery.

(b) *Prepayment of Expenses.* Discovery shall pay the expenses (including attorneys' fees) incurred by a director or officer in defending any proceeding in advance of its final disposition; provided, however, that the payment of expenses incurred by a director or officer in advance of the final disposition of the proceeding shall be made only upon receipt of an undertaking by the director or officer to repay all amounts advanced if it should be ultimately determined that the director or officer is not entitled to be indemnified under this paragraph or otherwise.

(c) *Claims.* If a claim for indemnification or payment of expenses under this paragraph is not paid in full within 30 days after a written claim therefor has been received by Discovery, the claimant may file suit to recover the unpaid amount of such claim and, to the extent permitted by law, shall be entitled to be paid the expense of prosecuting such claim. In any such action Discovery shall have the burden of proving that the claimant was not entitled to the requested indemnification or payment of expenses under applicable law.

(d) *Non-Exclusivity of Rights.* The rights conferred on any person by this paragraph shall not be exclusive of any other rights which such person may have or hereafter acquire under any statute, provision of the Charter, the bylaws of Discovery, agreement, vote of stockholders or resolution of disinterested directors or otherwise.

(e) *Insurance.* The board of directors may, to the full extent permitted by applicable law as it presently exists, or may hereafter be amended from time to time, authorize an appropriate officer or officers to purchase and maintain at Discovery's expense insurance: (i) to indemnify Discovery for any obligation which it incurs as a result of the indemnification of directors and officers under the provisions of Article V, Section E of the Charter; and (ii) to indemnify or insure directors and officers against liability in instances in which they may not otherwise be indemnified by Discovery under the provisions of Article V, Section E of the Charter.

(f) *Other Indemnification.* Discovery's obligation, if any, to indemnify any person who was or is serving at its request as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, limited liability company, trust, enterprise or nonprofit entity shall be reduced by any amount such person may collect as indemnification from such other corporation, partnership, joint venture, limited liability company, trust, enterprise or nonprofit entity.

3. *Amendment or Repeal.* Any amendment, modification or repeal of the foregoing provisions of Article V, Section E of the Charter shall not adversely affect any right or protection hereunder of any person in respect of any act or omission occurring prior to the time of such amendment, modification or repeal.

Item 7. Exemption from Registration Claimed.

Not applicable.

Item 8. Exhibits.

The Exhibit Index immediately preceding the exhibits is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 9. Undertakings.

1. Item 512(a) of Regulation S-K. The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement; and

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

provided, however, that paragraphs (i) and (ii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement.

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

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

2. Item 512(b) of Regulation S-K. The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

3. Item 512(h) of Regulation S-K. Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities

Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Silver Spring, State of Maryland, on this 24th day of May, 2011.

DISCOVERY COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

By: /s/ Bruce L. Campbell
 Bruce L. Campbell
 Chief Development Officer, General Counsel and
 Corporate Secretary

POWER OF ATTORNEY AND SIGNATURES

We, the undersigned officers and directors of Discovery Communications, Inc. hereby severally constitute and appoint Bruce L. Campbell, and Bradley E. Singer, and each of them singly, our true and lawful attorneys with full power to them, and each of them singly, to sign for us and in our names in the capacities indicated below, the registration statement on Form S-8 filed herewith and any and all subsequent amendments to said registration statement, and generally to do all such things in our names and on our behalf in our capacities as officers and directors to enable Discovery Communications, Inc. to comply with the provisions of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and all requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission, hereby ratifying and confirming our signatures as they may be signed by our said attorneys, or any of them, to said registration statement and any and all amendments thereto.

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

Signature	Title	Date
/s/ David M. Zaslav	President and Chief Executive Officer, and Director	May 24, 2011
David M. Zaslav	(Principal Executive Officer)	
/s/ John S. Hendricks	Founder, Chairman of the Board, and Director	May 24, 2011
John S. Hendricks		
/s/ Bradley E. Singer	Senior Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer (Principal Financial Officer)	May 24, 2011
Bradley E. Singer		

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/s/ Thomas R. Colan	Executive Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer	May 24, 2011
Thomas R. Colan	(Principal Accounting Officer)	
/s/ Robert R. Beck Robert R. Beck	Director	May 24, 2011
/s/ Robert R. Bennett Robert R. Bennett	Director	May 24, 2011
/s/ Paul A. Gould Paul A. Gould	Director	May 24, 2011
/s/ Lawrence S. Kramer Lawrence S. Kramer	Director	May 24, 2011
/s/ John C. Malone John C. Malone	Director	May 24, 2011
/s/ Robert J. Miron Robert J. Miron	Director	May 24, 2011
/s/ Steven A. Miron Steven A. Miron	Director	May 24, 2011
/s/ M. LaVoy Robison M. LaVoy Robison	Director	May 24, 2011
/s/ J. David Wargo J. David Wargo	Director	May 24, 2011

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

Number	Description
4.1	Form of Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Discovery Communications, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Amendment No. 2 to the Registration Statement on Form S-4, SEC File No. 333-151586)
4.2	Bylaws of Discovery Communications, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Form 8-K filed on November 16, 2009, SEC File No. 001-34177)
5	Opinion of Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP, counsel to the Registrant
23.1	Consent of Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP (included in Exhibit 5)
23.2	Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
24.1	Power of attorney (included on the signature pages of this registration statement)
99.1	2011 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to the Form 8-K filed on May 19, 2011, SEC File No. 001-34177)