

AIRGATE PCS INC /DE/
Form 425
November 22, 2004

Filed by Alamosa Holdings, Inc. pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and deemed filed pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended
Subject Company: Airgate PCS, Inc.
Exchange Act File Number of
Subject Company: 000-27455

This document contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such statements include, but are not limited to, (1) statements about the benefits of the proposed merger between Alamosa Holdings, Inc. ("Alamosa") and AirGate PCS, Inc. ("AirGate"), including future financial and operating results; (2) statements with respect to Alamosa's plans, objectives, expectations and intentions and other statements that are not historical facts; and (3) other statements identified by words such as "believes," "expects," "anticipates," "estimates," "intends," "plans," "targets," "projects" and similar expressions. Such statements are based upon the current beliefs and expectations of Alamosa's management and are subject to significant risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ from those set forth in the forward-looking statements.

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Stockholders are urged to read the disclosure documents regarding the proposed Alamosa/AirGate transaction when they become available because they will contain important information. Stockholders will be able to obtain a free copy of such disclosure documents when they become available, as well as other filings containing information about Alamosa and AirGate, without charge, at the Commission's internet site (<http://www.sec.gov>). Copies of the disclosure documents and the filings with the Commission that will be incorporated by reference in such disclosure documents can also be obtained without charge, when they become available, by directing a request to Alamosa Holdings, Inc., 5225 S. Loop 289, Lubbock, Texas 79424, Attention: Jon Drake (806-722-1100).

The directors and executive officers of Alamosa may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from Alamosa shareholders in respect of the proposed transaction with AirGate. Information regarding Alamosa's directors and executive officers is currently available in its proxy statement filed with the Commission by Alamosa on April 23, 2004. Other information regarding the participants in such proxy solicitation and a description of their direct and indirect interests, by security holdings or otherwise, will be contained in the disclosure documents and other relevant materials that will be filed by Alamosa with the Commission when they become available.

Any information concerning AirGate contained in this document has been taken from, or is based upon, publicly available information. Although Alamosa does not have any information that would indicate that the information contained in this document that has been taken from such documents is inaccurate or incomplete, Alamosa does not take any responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of such information.

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The following is a press release issued by Alamosa Holdings, Inc. on November 22, 2004:

News Release

Contact: Jon D. Drake
Senior Director of Investor Relations
Alamosa Holdings, Inc.
806-722-1455
jdrake@alamosapcs.com

ALAMOSA ANNOUNCES PROPOSAL
TO COMBINE WITH AIRGATE PCS

Schedules Conference Call at 11AM EST to Discuss Merits of Offer

LUBBOCK, Texas (November 22, 2004) – Alamosa Holdings, Inc. (Nasdaq: APCS) today released a letter dated October 22, 2004 from David E. Sharbutt, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Alamosa, to Thomas M. Dougherty, Chief Executive Officer of AirGate PCS, Inc., in which Alamosa proposed to combine with AirGate in a stock-for-stock merger in which AirGate stockholders would receive 2.8 Alamosa shares in exchange for each of their AirGate shares.

"Since the middle of this year we have attempted to engage AirGate's management in discussions regarding a combination of our two companies," stated Mr. Sharbutt. "When we sent this letter to AirGate four weeks ago, we considered releasing it publicly so that AirGate shareholders would have this important information about their company. However, AirGate requested that we first give them an opportunity to consider and respond to our proposal. We decided to release the details of our proposal now because we believe that AirGate is not giving serious consideration to our offer.

"We believe our proposal represents a full and fair price for AirGate shareholders and provides them with a significant opportunity to participate as a shareholder in the growth of Alamosa going forward. As mentioned in our letter, a combination of Alamosa and AirGate would create the premier Sprint PCS Affiliate with over 23 million total POPs, over 18 million covered POPs and over 1.25 million subscribers. We believe the increased scale of the combined company will provide meaningful operational and financial benefits to both companies and their shareholders. In addition, with a significantly increased market capitalization, the combined company's common stock will provide AirGate shareholders with a substantially more liquid security and should appeal to a broader investor group going forward. Alamosa has a proven track record of successfully integrating acquisitions and delivering operating results and we are confident we can successfully integrate AirGate into our operations to the benefit of all shareholders.

"We are eager to move forward with our proposed combination with AirGate, and we urge AirGate shareholders who are interested in such a combination to share their views about the future of their company with AirGate's management and directors.

Our proposal will expire at the close of business on Monday, December 6, 2004, unless at that time we are actively engaged in substantial and meaningful negotiations with AirGate regarding a definitive transaction."

CONFERENCE CALL

Alamosa has scheduled a conference call, to further discuss this release and its proposal to combine with AirGate, which will be broadcast live over the Internet, on Monday, November 22, 2004 at 11:00 a.m. EST. To participate in the call, dial (913) 981-4911 and ask for the Alamosa call 10 minutes prior to the start time. Investors, analysts and the general public will also have the opportunity to listen to the conference call free over the Internet by visiting the Company's Web site at www.alamosapcs.com or www.fulldisclosure.com. The Company is also providing an accompanying slide presentation on its website. To listen to the live call online, please visit the Web site at least 15 minutes early to register, download and install any necessary audio software. A replay of the broadcast will not be available after the call.

* * * * *

The following is the complete text of the letter dated October 22, 2004 from Mr. Sharbutt of Alamosa to Mr. Dougherty of AirGate:

[Alamosa Letterhead]

October 22, 2004

Thomas M. Dougherty
Chief Executive Officer and Director
AirGate PCS, Inc.
233 Peachtree St. NE
Harris Tower Suite 1700
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Tom:

I appreciated having the opportunity to speak with you regarding a business combination involving our respective companies. As I mentioned to you in our discussions, my board of directors and management team have given significant consideration to a combination of AirGate with Alamosa and have concluded that both organizations and their shareholders stand to realize substantial benefits from such a combination.

On behalf of Alamosa, I submit for consideration by you and your board of directors a proposal for the combination of Alamosa and AirGate in a stock-for-stock merger pursuant to which AirGate stockholders would receive 2.8 Alamosa shares in exchange for each of their AirGate shares. In addition, we would consider paying a significant portion of the consideration in cash rather than stock. Our proposal provides compelling value to your stockholders and the opportunity to continue to participate in the upside available to Alamosa stockholders.

A merger of our two companies would create the premier Sprint PCS Affiliate with over 23 million total POPs, over 18 million covered POPs and approximately 1.188 million subscribers. We believe that the increased scale of our combined company will provide meaningful operational and financial benefits. In addition, with the significantly increased market capitalization, the combined company's common stock should appeal to a broader investor group going forward and provide your stockholders with a substantially more liquid market.

We have discussed with our advisors the various legal, financial and other requirements associated with this proposal and do not anticipate any difficulty in the prompt completion of due diligence, negotiation of a definitive agreement and consummation of this merger. We have taken the appropriate steps to maintain the confidentiality of this letter, and we believe that you are under no legal obligation to publicly disclose either this letter or its contents.

I am confident that you and your board of directors will view our proposal as a unique opportunity for AirGate stockholders to realize substantial value for their shares in a transaction that entails little execution risk and provides an opportunity to share in the growth prospects of the combined company. We are prepared to meet with you, your management team, your board and your advisors to quickly move forward. We are prepared to address any concerns that you may have and believe that there are no issues that we cannot resolve together.

I look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Sincerely,

/s/ David E. Sharbutt

David E. Sharbutt
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Alamosa Holdings, Inc.

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ABOUT ALAMOSA

Alamosa Holdings, Inc. is the largest (based on number of subscribers) PCS Affiliate of Sprint (NYSE: FON), which operates the largest all-digital, all-CDMA Third-Generation (3G) wireless network in the United States. Alamosa has the exclusive right to provide digital wireless mobile communications network services under the Sprint brand name throughout its designated territory located in Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arizona, Colorado, Utah, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri, Washington, Oregon, Arkansas, Kansas, Illinois and California. Alamosa's territory includes licensed population of 15.8 million residents.

ABOUT SPRINT

Sprint is a global integrated communications provider serving more than 26 million customers in over 100 countries. With more than \$26 billion in annual revenues in 2003, Sprint is widely recognized for developing, engineering and deploying state-of-the-art network technologies, including the United States' first nationwide all-digital, fiber-optic network and an award-winning Tier 1 Internet backbone. Sprint provides local communications services in 39 states and the District of Columbia and operates the largest 100-percent digital, nationwide PCS wireless network in the United States. For more information, visit www.sprint.com

FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION

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The following are the slides used in a conference call conducted by Alamosa Holdings, Inc. on November 22, 2004:

**Proposed Combination with
AirGate PCS**

November 22, 2004

1

Safe Harbor Provisions

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Proposal Overview

On October 22, Alamosa delivered a business combination proposal to AirGate's CEO and Board of Directors

Stock-for-stock merger

2.80 shares of Alamosa stock for each AirGate share

31% premium to AirGate's previous day closing share price (October 21)

21% premium to AirGate's and Alamosa's average closing share prices since the offer was submitted

Flexibility to include cash as part of consideration

Alamosa has been attempting to engage AirGate's management and Board of Directors in discussions since mid-year 2004

Proposal will expire at the close of business on Monday, December 6, 2004 unless we are actively engaged in substantial and meaningful negotiations with AirGate regarding a definitive transaction at that time

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Creation of the Premier
Sprint Affiliate

Industry leading combination

Creation of the premier Sprint Affiliate

Over 23 million total POPs, 18 million covered POPs and 1.25 million subscribers

Pro forma size should appeal to a broader investor base

Alamosa is the strongest Sprint Affiliate

Consistently strong operating results - strongest balance sheet

Enables combined company to further rationalize pro forma capital structure to the benefit of
each companies shareholders

Management team with a proven track record of successful integrations of acquisitions

Integrated over \$690 million¹ of acquisitions since 2000

Earnings power better than sum of parts

Estimated annual operational synergies of approximately \$10.0 million²

Additional scale benefits

Lower cost of capital

Platform for future organic and external growth

Pro forma company would be far and away the largest Sprint Affiliate on all metrics

Enhances relationship with Sprint

Note:

1 Based on Alamosa's stock price prior to the announcement of each transaction

2 Synergy estimates are preliminary and subject to further due diligence

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Review of Proposal Valuation

This proposal represents a full and fair offer to AirGate shareholders

2.80 Alamosa shares for each AirGate share

Potential for cash consideration

Assuming 100% stock consideration, AirGate shareholders would own approximately 17.8%¹ of the pro forma company

Alamosa would issue approximately 33.3 million shares to AirGate shareholders

Implied valuation based on 11/19/04 Alamosa share price

Price per AirGate share of \$30.10

Equity value of \$358 million

Enterprise value of \$596 million

Implied market multiples:

Enterprise value / Total POPs = \$80

Enterprise value / Covered POPs = \$98

Enterprise value / LTM EBITDA = 9.6x

Enterprise value / LTM EBITDA - Capex = 12.8x

Note:

1 Shares outstanding for both Alamosa and AirGate are based on the treasury methodology for calculating the impact of in the money options. Alamosa's convertible preferred stock included on an as converted basis

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Merger Beneficial to
All Shareholders

AirGate Shareholders

Attractive valuation

Immediate increase in liquidity

Opportunity to receive a portion
of proceeds in cash

Strong Alamosa currency offered

Most liquid stock in Sprint
Affiliate sector (Alamosa's
average daily dollar volume is
6.5x that of AirGate's)

Largest market capitalization of
any of the Sprint Affiliates

Best trading fundamentals of any
Sprint Affiliate

Significant coverage from Wall
Street research analysts

Alamosa Shareholders

Pro forma Company is better
positioned to grow and create
shareholder value

Accretive on all key metrics

POPs, Subscribers, EBITDA, FCF

Positions Alamosa as the sector
consolidator

Proven track record of value
creation through acquisition

Roberts Wireless Communications

Washington Oregon Wireless

Southwest PCS

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AirGate Overview

6th largest Sprint Affiliate¹

7.4 million total POPs

6.1 million covered POPs

384,241² subscribers as of 9/30/04

Strong market demographics

Major AirGate markets include:

Greenville, SC (935,800 POPs)

Savannah, GA (775,800 POPs)

Charleston, SC (690,200 POPs)

Columbia, SC (685,100 POPs)

Adjacent to major Sprint PCS
southeastern markets

Sprint PCS markets include:

Atlanta, GA

Raleigh, NC

Charlotte, NC

Significant overlap with Sprint
local telephone division

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Note:

1 Based on total population

2 Based on the midpoint of AirGate's CY 3Q announced guidance on

September 30, 2004

Strong Pro Forma Footprint

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The pro forma Company would be the premier and largest Sprint Affiliate

Historical Operating &
Financial Highlights

\$95.7

\$15.8 ¹

\$79.9

LTM Capex (mm)

\$227.7

\$62.2^{1,2}

\$165.5

LTM EBITDA (mm)

\$301.4

\$90.0¹

\$211.4

CY Q3 Total Revenue (mm)

Combined

AirGate

Alamosa

\$62.9

\$17.0^{1,2}

\$45.9

CY Q3 EBITDA (mm)

\$1,085.1

\$335.6¹

\$749.5

LTM Total Revenue (mm)

Financial:

62.0

9.0¹

53.0

CY Q3 Net Additions (000s)

6.8%

6.3%¹

7.0%

Penetration of Covered POPs

1,250,241

384,241¹

866,000

EOP Subscribers (9/30/04)

18.4

6.1

12.3

Covered POPs (mm)

23.2

7.4

15.8

Total POPs (mm)

Operating:

Notes:

1 Based on the midpoint of AirGate's CY 3Q announced guidance on September 30, 2004

2 Excludes an approximately \$10.9 million one time adjustment related to the settlement with Sprint

10

Positioned for Sector Leadership

Industry leading combination with significantly increased scale

18.4

12.3

8.1

7.9

6.1

5.9

5.7

4.8

0.0

4.0

8.0

12.0

16.0

20.0

APCS +

PCSA

APCS

UNWR

UPCS

PCSA

IPCX

HZPS

IWO

11

23.2

15.8

11.3

10.0

7.8

7.5

7.4

6.3

0.0

4.0

8.0

12.0

16.0

20.0

24.0

APCS +

PCSA

APCS

UNWR

UPCS

IPCX

HZPS

PCSA

IWO

Net Adds (000s) - Q3 04

EOP Subscribers (000s) - Q3 04

Covered POPs (mm)

Total POPs (mm)

62

53

18

9

8

7

5

(6)

-10

10

30

50

70

APCS +

PCSA

APCS

UPCS

PCSA

IPCX

UNWR

IWO

HZPS

1,250

866

449

384

383

241

231

185

0

200

400

600

800

1,000

1,200

1,400

APCS +

PCSA

APCS

UNWR

PCSA

UPCS

IPCX

IWO

HZPS

Positioned for Sector Leadership

Source: Alamosa's 2004 data per Company's guidance. AirGate's 2004 data per consensus Wall Street research

Strong pro forma cash flow generation

Does not reflect pro forma impact of estimated annual synergies

Note: As of latest publicly released quarterly data

1 Excludes effects of operations in NTELOS markets

LTM EBITDA (mm)

\$136

\$90

\$48

\$46

\$44

\$17

\$0

\$50

\$100

\$150

APCS +

PCSA

APCS

UNWR

PCSA

UPCS

IPCX

12

CY 2004 EBITDA - Capex (mm)

LTM EBITDA - Capex (mm)

\$228

\$166

\$79

\$63

\$62

\$31

\$28

\$0

\$50

\$100

\$150

\$200

\$250

APCS +

PCSA

APCS

UNWR

UPCS

PCSA

IPCX

HZPS¹

\$247

\$180

\$76

\$71

\$67

\$32

\$27

\$0

\$50

\$100

\$150

\$200

\$250

APCS +

PCSA

APCS

UNWR

UPCS

PCSA

IPCX

HZPS¹

\$132

\$86

\$60

\$46

\$31

\$19

\$0

\$50

\$100

\$150

APCS +

PCSA

APCS

UNWR

PCSA

UPCS

IPCX

CY 2004 EBITDA (mm)

EBITDA Accretive Transaction

The transaction is EBITDA per share accretive to Alamosa's shareholders

17% accretive to 2004 EBITDA per share on a pro forma basis

Pro forma for the proposed transaction and the impact of estimated annual synergies

Source: Alamosa's 2004 data per Company's guidance. AirGate's 2004 data per consensus Wall Street research

2004E EBITDA Accretion

Alamosa

Alamosa

Stand Alone

Pro Forma

2004E EBITDA (mm)

\$180.0

\$246.5

Operating Synergies

-

10.0

Pro Forma 2004E EBITDA (mm)

\$180.0

\$256.5

Pro Forma Shares Outstanding (mm)¹

153.8

187.1

EBITDA / Share

1.17

1.37

2004 EBITDA Accretion per Share

-

17%

13

Note:

1 Shares outstanding for both Alamosa and AirGate are based on the treasury methodology for calculating the impact of in the money options. Alamosa's convertible preferred stock included on an as converted basis

Summary

Transaction is strategically and financially attractive to Alamosa and AirGate shareholders

Industry-leading combination

Attractive valuation to AirGate shareholders

Immediate increase in liquidity

Attractive currency

Accretive transaction to Alamosa shareholders

Increased scale and scope

Earnings power better than sum of parts

Platform for future growth and value creation

Proven track record of delivering results and successful acquisition integration

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Appendix

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AirGate Corporate Governance

December 9, 2004 to January 8, 2005

Advance Notice Period for shareholders to submit director nominations or other proposals for consideration at the 2005 AirGate annual meeting, as set forth in AirGate's bylaws:

December 16, 2004

Advance Notice Deadline for shareholders to submit director nominations or other proposals for consideration at the 2005 AirGate annual meeting, as set forth in AirGate's last proxy statement:

No

Shareholder Rights Plan (poison pill):

Yes, 3 classes

Classified Board:

Delaware

State of Incorporation:

16

AirGate Board of Directors

Former chairman, president and chief executive officer of BCE Mobile Communications (wireless telecommunications); serves on the Board of

Directors of Brookfield Homes Corp., 01 Communique, ATS Automation Tooling Systems, Inc., and CellBucks Payments Network Inc.

Robert Ferchat, 69

(Chairman)

Founder, Max D. Hopper Associates, Inc. (information systems consulting).

Max D. Hopper, 69

Up for re-election in 2007

President and Managing Director of Matterhorn Strategic Partners, LLC (strategic and financial advisory).

Stephen R. Stetz, 61

Chair, Fischer Imaging Corp. (medical imaging technology).

Gail S. Schoettler, 60

Up for re-election in 2006

Treasurer of the National Neurofibromatosis Foundation; Board of Directors of NII Holdings, Inc.

John W. Risner, 44

AirGate CEO.

Thomas M. Dougherty, 59

Up for re-election in 2005

(all information is from AirGate's SEC filings and public documents)

Note: According to AirGate's website, AirGate has appointed a seventh director, Tim O'Brien, in 2004. AirGate has made no public disclosure regarding Mr. O'Brien, including what board class he was placed in.

**Proposed Combination with
AirGate PCS**

November 22, 2004

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